

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C12N 9/10, 15/82	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/11142 (43) International Publication Date: 2 March 2000 (02.03.00)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/06037</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 18 August 1999 (18.08.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 09/137,434 20 August 1998 (20.08.98) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CULTOR CORPORATION [FI/FI]; Keilaranta 9, FIN-02150 Espoo (FI).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): REINIKAINEN, Tapani [FI/FI]; Pajalahdentie 21 A 16, FIN-00200 Helsinki (FI). NYSSÖLÄ, Antti [FI/FI]; Messeniuksenkatu 8 A 8, FIN-00250 Helsinki (FI). KEROVUO, Janne [FI/FI]; Merimiehenkatu 39 B 36, FIN-00150 Helsinki (FI).</p> <p>(74) Agents: KOLB, Helga et al.; Hoffmann . Eitle, Arabellastrasse 4, D-81925 Munich (DE).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: METHYLTRANSFERASES, NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING METHYLTRANSFERASES, THEIR RECOMBINANT EXPRESSION AND USES THEREOF</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The present invention relates to proteins which are capable of functioning as methyltransferases. More, specifically, the present invention relates to methyltransferases which are capable of carrying out at least one of the following reactions: the conversion of glycine to sarcosine, sarcosine to dimethyl glycine and dimethyl glycine to betaine in the presence of a methyl group donor. Furthermore, the present invention relates to nucleic acid molecules encoding such methyltransferase proteins, recombinant organisms which are capable of expressing said nucleic acids as well as the use of said recombinant organisms.</p>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

Methyltransferases, nucleic acid molecules encoding methyltransferases, their recombinant expression and uses thereof

The present invention relates to proteins which are capable of functioning as methyltransferases. More, specifically, the present invention relates to methyltransferases which are capable of carrying out at least one of the following reactions: the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methylglycine), sarcosine to N,N-dimethyl glycine and N,N-dimethyl glycine to betaine (N,N,N-trimethylglycine) in the presence of a methyl group donor. Furthermore, the present invention relates to nucleic acid molecules encoding such methyltransferase proteins, recombinant organisms which are capable of expressing said nucleic acids as well as the use of said recombinant organisms.

Technological background

Betaine (N,N,N-trimethylglycine) is a quaternary ammonium compound which can be found in many micro-organisms, animals and plants. Betaine is synthesized or accumulated in living cells in response to abiotic stress (salinity, desiccation or low temperatures) (Mc Gue and Hanson, 1990; Csonka, 1989; Yancey et al., 1982; Wyn Jones et al., 1977; Gorham, 1995; Bohnert and Jensen, 1996). Due to its physical properties, betaine is an osmolyte and thus it is able to restore and maintain osmotic balance of living cells. In addition, it has been demonstrated that betaine stabilizes and protects cell membranes (Coughlan and Heber, 1982) and other macromolecules (i.e. enzymes) in the cell (Papagiorgiou and Murata, 1995).

Betaine is synthesized by a number of microbes. In addition, these microbes are usually capable of accumulating betaine or a precursor, choline, from the culture medium (Boch et al., 1994; Perroud and Rudulier, 1985; Kempf and Bremer, 1995; Glaasker et al., 1996; Peter et al., 1996; and Kappes et al., 1996). Practically all halophilic bacteria are able to use

betaine as at least one of their osmolytes in order to survive in the high ionic strength environment.

Also, many plants synthesize betaine in response to drought or salinity (Rhodes and Hanson, 1993; Gorham, 1995). A correlation between cold tolerance and betaine synthesis has been demonstrated (Holmberg, N. 1996, Kishitani et al., 1994; Nomura et al., 1995). Intracellular concentrations as low as 1 mM have shown to give protective effects in plants (Ishitani et al., 1993). Increasing the betaine content of plants by genetic engineering or plant breeding has shown to result in more salt or cold tolerant transgenic plants. A betaine biosynthesis pathway has been introduced, e.g. in tobacco (Lilius et al. 1996; JP 8-266179; JP 8-103267) Arabidopsis (Hayashi et al., 1997) and rice (Nakamura et al., 1997; Guo, 1997). However, the results obtained are very preliminary and only phenotypic effects (salt or cold tolerance) have been demonstrated. Very little is known with respect to the relationship between the concentration dependence of the intracellular betaine and stress tolerance.

It has recently been shown that plants can acquire better stress tolerance by accumulating exogenously applied betaine. Foliar spraying of betaine in a specific phase of growth has been shown to increase the productivity of many crops. (Mäkelä et al., 1996; Agboma, 1997). Typically, 15 % crop yield improvements have been obtained with many species (sorghum, maize, soybean, cotton, potato, tomato) under conditions of salinity and drought. The detailed physiological mechanism of betaine action is not fully understood, but it is known that betaine stimulates photosynthesis and decreases photorespiration.

In animal cells, betaine also acts as a methyl group donor. The most important function is to the ability to methylate homocysteine back to methionine, which can then further be used as a methyl group donor when metabolized to S-adenosyl methionine (SAM). It has been demonstrated that orally

administered betaine relieves diarrhea and dehydration in many animals and inhibits invasion of gut epithelium by coccidia parasite (Ferket, 1994; Augustine and McNaughton, 1996). As a methyl group donor betaine has been shown to be lipotropic, thus decreasing the amount of fat in chicken meat (Saunderson and MacKinlay, 1990; Barak et al., 1993).

The most extensively studied betaine biosynthesis pathway is the two-step oxidation reaction of choline to betaine via betaine aldehyde. This metabolic pathway has been demonstrated to exist in number of microbes, plants and animal cells. The choline-betaine pathway of *E. coli* (Lamark et al., 1991) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Nagasawa et al., 1976) comprises an oxygen-dependent choline dehydrogenase, which catalyzes the oxidation of both choline to betaine aldehyde and betaine aldehyde to betaine. The *E. coli* choline dehydrogenase gene has been cloned and sequenced. In addition, it has successfully been expressed in many heterologous organisms (Nomura et al., 1995; Lilius et al., 1996; Hayashi et al., 1997; Nakamura et al., 1997; Guo, 1997). The enzyme is membrane-bound. The reaction is independent of soluble cofactors and electron-transfer linked. Choline dehydrogenase genes from *Sinorhizobium meliloti* (Pocard et al., 1997) and *Bacillus* (Boch et al., 1996) have also been isolated.

Alternatively, the oxidation of choline to betaine can be catalyzed by a choline oxidase found for example in some *Corynebacteria*, *Brevibacterium* and *Alcaligenes* species (Nakanishi and Machida, 1981; Kojima et al., 1987). The enzyme has been shown to also exist in some fungal strains (Tani et al., 1979). The choline oxidase of *Arthrobacter pascens* has been cloned and successfully expressed in *E. coli* (Rozwadowski et al., 1991) or *Synechococcus* (Deshnium et al., 1995). The reaction uses molecular oxygen as the hydrogen acceptor and hydrogen peroxide is formed in the reaction.

In plants, the synthesis of betaine pathway has been investigated in detail in sugar beet and spinach (McCue et al., 1992; Weretilnyk and Hanson, 1989). The first step is catalyzed by a choline mono-oxygenase. In plants the enzyme is located in the chloroplast stroma (Brouquisse et al., 1989). The gene has recently been cloned from spinach (Rathinasabapathi et al., 1997).

The second oxidation step from betaine aldehyde to betaine may also be catalyzed by a betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase. A betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase has also been found in a number of organisms (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (30)). Also some plants have this enzyme (Hanson et al., 1985). In plants, the enzyme has been demonstrated to have wider substrate specificity and thus it also catalyzes other reactions (Trossat et al., 1997). The gene has been cloned from *E. coli* (Lamark et al., 1991), spinach (Weretilnyk and Hanson, 1990) and also from barley (Ishitani et al., 1995). The *E. coli* gene has also successfully been expressed in transgenic tobacco (Holmström et al., 1994).

Ability to synthesize betaine de novo is rare among aerobic heterotrophic eubacteria. Of all strains examined, only *Actinopolyspora halophila* and a related isolate have been shown to produce betaine from simple carbon sources (Severin et al., 1992; Galinski, 1993). There are few examples of other organisms which have been shown to be able to synthesize betaine from simple carbon sources. The data is usually based on metabolic studies using NMR. Roberts and co-workers (1992) have shown that some archaebacterial methanogens (*Methanohalophilus*) could synthesize betaine from glycine via a methylation reaction. However, no enzymes catalyzing the reactions have successfully been isolated from these organisms. A similar pathway has been suggested to exist in *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris* (Galinski and Trüper, 1994).

Attempts to characterize the glycine biosynthesis pathway in *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris* have been made (Tschichholtz-Mikus, 1994). According to the hypothesis proposed by this author, betaine would be synthesized from glycine by three methyltransferases, each specific for one methylation reaction. The isolation of the purified enzymes was, however, not successful and only one enzyme, specified as dimethyl glycine methyltransferase was partially purified. In addition, the methodology used to study reactions was rather simple and as demonstrated herein, the results obtained by the group differ from those obtained by the present inventors.

Betaine is used as feed additive in feed industry. Thus, transgenic plants producing high amounts of betaine *in vivo* would have better nutritional value. Feed crops (e.g. maize or soybean) producing sufficient amounts of betaine could therefore directly be used in feed without the need of betaine supplementation.

Although betaine is synthesized by many plants, there are several commercially important crops such as potato, rice, tomato and tobacco which do not accumulate betaine. For example, Bulow and co-workers (1995) were the first to demonstrate that expression of the *E. coli* choline dehydrogenase in tobacco improves the salt tolerance and freezing tolerance (Holmberg, 1996) of transgenic potato and tobacco due to endogenously synthesized betaine. The same phenomenon has been demonstrated also with *Arabidopsis* (Hayashi et al., 1997) and rice (Nakamura et al., 1997; Guo, 1997). Therefore, expression of the methyltransferases in plants can facilitate stress tolerance and improve the productivity of the plants when grown under conditions of water stress or freezing and cold temperatures.

Moreover, betaine has shown to induce pathogenesis-related protein expression in plants (Xin et al., 1996) as well as increasing the resistance of plants to attack by pathogenic

fungi or nematodes (Blunden et al., 1996; Wu et al., 1997) and may decrease the incidence of nematode (e.g. *Meloidogne javanica* and *M. incognita*) attack in plants. Therefore, transgenic plants producing endogenous betaine, can be more resistant to fungal pathogens. Moreover, the betaine synthesis in the plants may be coupled to the systemic resistance genes which are induced when the plant is attacked by pathogens.

Endogenously synthesized betaine may also affect the viability of microbes and therefore it would improve their performance in various biotechnical processes. For instance, in high cell density fermentation or immobilized cell systems, the production microbes are subjected to considerable environmental stress. Betaine has successfully been used in fermentation media to increase the product yield in amino acid production. For instance, betaine has shown to relieve stress and improve yield of lysine producing *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* (Kawahara et al., 1990). Betaine is also commercially sold for the purpose (Nutristim®, Cultor Corp). Thus, endogenously synthesized betaine can improve productivity in biotechnical processes where the cells are subjected to abiotic stress.

Microbes also suffer from stress when subjected to high temperatures or when cells are freeze-dried or frozen. The viability of yeast or bacterial cells may be dramatically reduced in these processes used in e.g. frozen dough manufacturing or preservation of lactic acid bacterium starters. Therefore, it would be highly advantageous if one could improve the viability of microbes subjected to freeze-thaw or freeze-drying processes by accumulating betaine inside the cells. In addition, it has been shown that exogenously applied betaine improves the viability of microbes in extreme pH (Smirnova and Oktyabrsky, 1995; Chambers and Kunin, 1985).

Improved performance of beneficial, probiotic microbes organisms in animal digestive tract can be utilized in animal nutrition. Thus, introduction of a betaine synthesis pathway can improve the stress tolerance of "probiotic" lactic acid microbes which efficiently bind to gut epithelium in cells, providing a way to balance the microbial population in the GI tract and to improve pathogen resistance.

Betaine has been shown to stabilize proteins in the cells. For example, it has also been demonstrated that cytoplasmic accumulation of betaine will reduce the formation of inclusion bodies (Blackwell and Horgan, 1991; Bhandari and Gowrishankar, 1997) which is a problem often encountered when heterologous proteins are expressed in *E. coli*. Thus, co-expression of the genes of betaine biosynthesis with the protein of interest should result in better solubility of the heterologous protein and reduce the amount of inclusion bodies.

The use of the glycine methylation pathway may have a number of advantages over the oxidative synthesis from choline. Glycine is synthesized by practically all organisms and as an amino acid, this metabolite is present in high concentrations in the cells. In contrast, the availability of intracellular choline may limit betaine biosynthesis. In addition, the metabolism and formation of glycine in cells is known and the genes of this metabolic pathway have been cloned, thus allowing the engineering of the glycine pathway.

Based on the above, an object of the present invention is to provide proteins which are capable of acting in a biosynthetic pathway from glycine to betaine as well as methods for the purification and production of said proteins.

A further object of the present invention is to provide nucleic acid molecules which, when transformed into a host organism, encode proteins which are capable of acting in a biosynthetic pathway from glycine to betaine.

A further object is to provide recombinant microorganisms which are capable of expressing one or more proteins which are capable of acting in a biosynthetic pathway from glycine to betaine for the production of betaine and precursors thereof.

Furthermore, an object of the present invention is to provide recombinant plants which express one or more proteins which are capable of acting in a biosynthetic pathway from glycine to betaine for the production of betaine and precursors thereof.

Furthermore, an object of the present invention is to provide a method for the production of betaine and precursors thereof, for example sarcosine and dimethyl glycine, in recombinant organisms.

A further object is to provide recombinant organisms which have an increased concentration of intracellular betaine and are useful in the fields of recombinant heterologous protein production, agriculture, etc.

A further object of the present invention is to provide nucleic acid probes and method for identifying and cloning genes which encode proteins which are capable of participating in a biosynthetic pathway from glycine to betaine.

A further object of the present invention is to provide methods for improving the general growth and/or productivity of an organism including enhancing stress tolerance, for example, salt tolerance, freezing tolerance and cold tolerance, enhancing resistance to drought, water stress and attack by pathogens in organisms.

Furthermore, an object of the present invention is to provide recombinant microorganisms which have improved viability in

culture, enhanced pH tolerance in culture, result in decreased inclusion body formation when expressing a heterologous protein, result in increased solubility, stability and/or yield of a heterologous protein expressed in said organism.

Moreover, it is an object of the present invention to provide an animal feed and animal feed ingredient having enhanced nutritional value.

Other objects of the present invention will be apparent to the skilled person based on the information provided herein.

Summary of the Invention

The inventors have identified, isolated and purified proteins which are capable of carrying out at least one of the following reactions in a metabolic pathway from glycine to betaine: the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methylglycine), sarcosine to N,N-dimethyl glycine and N,N-dimethyl glycine to betaine (N,N,N-trimethylglycine) in the presence of a methyl group donor. These proteins are designated herein as methyltransferases based on their ability to transfer a methyl group from a methyl group donor to a methyl group acceptor.

The above mentioned reactions are individual steps in a three-step methylation reaction pathway of glycine to betaine in certain microorganisms, for example, *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris* and *Actinopolyspora halophila*.

For example, a methyltransferase of the present invention (designated hereinafter as glycine-sarcosine methyltransferase or GSMT) has been isolated from *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris* and *Actinopolyspora halophila* which is capable of catalyzing methylation reactions that convert glycine to dimethyl glycine, i.e. convert glycine to

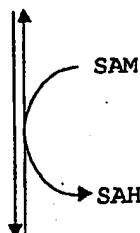
sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine).

As a further example, a methyltransferase according to the present invention (designated hereinafter as sarcosine-dimethylglycine methyltransferase or SDMT) has been isolated from *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris* and *Actinopolyspora halophila* which is capable of catalyzing methylation reactions that convert sarcosine to betaine, i.e. convert sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) and dimethyl glycine to betaine.

The activities of GSMT and SDMT are described below.

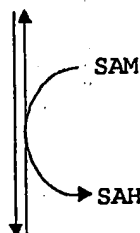
glycine

glycine-sarcosine
methyltransferase
(GSMT)



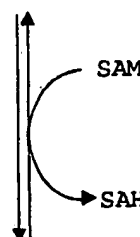
N-methyl glycine
(sarcosine)

glycine-sarcosine
methyltransferase
(GSMT)



sarcosine-
dimethyl glycine
methyltransferase
(SDMT)

N,N-dimethyl glycine



sarcosine-
dimethyl glycine
methyltransferase
(SDMT)

N,N,N-trimethyl glycine
(betaine)

The methyltransferases of the present invention are capable of utilizing S-adenosyl methionine (hereinafter also referred to as SAM) as a methyl group donor in the above reactions.

Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1. Formation of methylation products from glycine, sarcosine and dimethyl glycine substrates using the *A. halophila* cell extract. The retention times of the standards are shown by arrows.

Figure 2. Analysis of purified methyl transferases on SDS-PAGE. A) *E. halochloris* GSMT; B) *A. halophila* SDMT. Lane 1, Purified protein sample; lane 2, molecular weight marker.

Figure 3. The determination of the isoelectric point of *A. halophila* SDMT by isoelectric focusing.

Figure 4. The pH-optimum of *A. halophila* SDMT. (●) Activity on sarcosine; (▲) Activity on dimethyl glycine

Figure 5. The temperature dependence of *A. halophila* SDMT activity. (●) Activity on sarcosine; (▲) Activity on dimethyl glycine.

Figure 6. *In vitro* synthesis of betaine by using the purified *E. halochloris* GSMT and *A. halophila* SDMT enzymes. The retention times of the standards are shown by arrows.

Figure 7. The schematic structure of the betaine operons of *A. halophila* and *E. halochloris*. GSMT; glycine sarcosine methyltransferase. SDMT; sarcosine dimethyl glycine methyltransferase. SAMS; S-adenosyl methionine synthase.

Figure 8. The nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the *E. halochloris* betaine operon. The arrows indicate the amino acids encoding GSMT, SDMT and SAMS. The underlined regions

indicate regions which are hybridized with the primers used to construct the expression vectors in heterologous organisms. The * indicates a stop codon.

Figure 9. The nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the *A. halophila* betaine operon. The underlined regions indicate regions which are hybridized with the primers used to construct the expression vectors in heterologous organisms. The * indicates a stop codon.

Figure 10. Schematic presentation of the expression plasmid used in expression of the methyl transferases. The insert was ligated to vector digested with *NcoI*/*BglII*.

Figure 11. The growth curves of *E. coli* transformants carrying the *E. halochloris* GSMT gene (EGSM). Transformant carrying only the cloning vector (PQE-60) was used as the control.

Figure 12. The growth curves of *E. coli* transformants carrying the *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT genes (EhFU). Transformant carrying only the cloning vector (PQE-60) was used as the control.

Detailed Description of the Invention

One embodiment of the present invention provides a methyltransferase, for example GSMT, capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or the conversion of sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine). Preferably, said methyltransferase comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 and an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:6,
- (b) a fragment of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and

(c) a derivative of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and (b).

A fragment of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6 is designated as any fragment of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6 which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or the conversion of sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine).

A derivative of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6 is designated as any mutation, deletion, addition, substitution, insertion or inversion of one or more amino acids in the of amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6 which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or the conversion of sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine). Preferably, a derivative of a methyltransferase which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or the conversion of sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) has about 60 % homology, preferably about 70 % homology, more preferably about 80 % homology, and most preferably about 90 % homology to the corresponding amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6. Preferably, when the above amino acid sequences has one or more mutations, substitutions, additions and/or insertions, the amino acids constituting these changes are selected from the 20 standard naturally-occurring amino acids found in proteins, i.e. Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Pro, Phe, Trp, Met, Gly, Ser, Thr, Cys, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg and His. Preferably, the mutation(s) and/or substitution(s) are conservative, for example, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Pro, Phe, Trp, or Met residue(s) are replaced with one of these amino acids, Gly, Ser, Thr, Cys, Tyr, Asn, Gln, residue(s) are replaced with one of these amino acids, Asp or Glu are replaced with one of these amino acids and Lys, Arg or His are replaced with one of these amino acids.

In a preferred embodiment, a methyltransferase according to the invention has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2.

In another preferred embodiment, a methyltransferase according to the invention has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:6.

The methyltransferase of the present invention capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or the conversion of sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) can exist in the form of an active enzyme or as a zymogen. The term 'zymogen' designates a protein molecule or fragment or derivative thereof (as defined above) which is synthesized in an inactive form and is capable of being activated in vitro or in vivo by the chemical or enzymatic cleavage of one or more peptide bonds. A preferred zymogen of the methyltransferase of the present invention capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or the conversion of sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) comprises the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the N-terminus of SEQ ID NO: 3 is joined to the C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2.

A further embodiment of the present invention provides a methyltransferase, for example SDMT, capable of catalyzing the conversion of sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) and/or dimethyl glycine to betaine. Preferably, said methyltransferase comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:3 and an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:7,
- (b) a fragment of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and
- (c) a derivative of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and (b).

A fragment of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:7 is designated as any fragment of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:7 which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or the conversion of dimethyl glycine to betaine.

A derivative of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:7 is designated as any mutation, deletion, addition, substitution, insertion or inversion of one or more amino acids, or combination thereof, in the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:7 which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or the conversion of dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine. Preferably, a derivative of a methyltransferase which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or the conversion of dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine has about 60 % homology, preferably about 70 % homology, more preferably about 80 % homology, and most preferably about 90 % homology to the corresponding amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:7. Preferably, when the above amino acid sequences has one or more mutations, substitutions, additions and/or insertions, the amino acids constituting these changes are selected from the 20 standard naturally-occurring amino acids found in proteins, i.e. Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Pro, Phe, Trp, Met, Gly, Ser, Thr, Cys, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg and His. Preferably, the mutation(s) and/or substitution(s) are conservative, for example, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Pro, Phe, Trp, or Met residue(s) are replaced with one of these amino acids, Gly, Ser, Thr, Cys, Tyr, Asn, Gln, residue(s) are replaced with one of these amino acids, Asp or Glu are replaced with one of these amino acids and Lys, Arg or His are replaced with one of these amino acids.

In a preferred embodiment, a methyltransferase according to the invention has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:3.

In another preferred embodiment, a methyltransferase according to the invention has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:7.

The methyltransferase of the present invention capable of catalyzing the conversion of sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or the conversion of dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine can exist in the form of an active enzyme or as a zymogen. The term 'zymogen' designates a protein molecule, fragment or derivative thereof (as defined above) which is synthesized in an inactive form and is capable of being activated in vitro or in vivo by the chemical or enzymatic cleavage of one or more peptide bonds. A preferred zymogen of the methyltransferase of the present invention capable of catalyzing the conversion of sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or the conversion of dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine comprises the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the N-terminus of SEQ ID NO: 3 is joined to the C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2.

The methyltransferases of the present invention, for example naturally occurring GSMT and SDMT or recombinantly produced GSMT and SDMT and fragments or derivatives thereof as well as zymogens of these naturally occurring or recombinant proteins, are preferably isolated to a state free from other proteins originating from the organisms from which they are isolated; more preferably, to a pure state, most preferably to a homogeneous state.

Another aspect of the present invention provides an enzyme capable of catalyzing the synthesis of S-adenosyl methionine (SAM), i.e. S-adenosyl methionine synthase (hereinafter referred to as SAMS) which converts methionine to S-adenosyl

methionine in the presence of ATP. Preferably, said SAMS comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:4 and an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:8,
- (b) a fragment of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and
- (c) a derivative of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and (b).

A fragment of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8 is designated as any fragment of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8 which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of S-adenosyl methionine from methionine and ATP (adenosine triphosphate).

A derivative of an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8 is designated as any mutation, deletion, addition, substitution, insertion or inversion of one or more amino acids, or combination thereof, in the of amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8 which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of S-adenosyl methionine from methionine and ATP. Preferably, a derivative which is capable of catalyzing the conversion of methionine to S-adenosyl methionine has about 60 % homology, preferably about 70 % homology, more preferably about 80 % homology, and most preferably about 90 % homology to the corresponding amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8.

Preferably, when the above amino acid sequences has one or more mutations, substitutions, additions and/or insertions, the amino acids constituting these changes are selected from the 20 standard naturally-occurring amino acids found in proteins, i.e. Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Pro, Phe, Trp, Met, Gly, Ser, Thr, Cys, Tyr, Asn, Gln, Asp, Glu, Lys, Arg and His. Preferably, the mutation(s) and/or substitution(s) are conservative, for example, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Pro, Phe, Trp, or Met residue(s) are replaced with one of these amino acids, Gly, Ser, Thr, Cys, Tyr, Asn, Gln, residue(s) are replaced

with one of these amino acids, Asp or Glu are replaced with one of these amino acids and Lys, Arg or His are replaced with one of these amino acids.

In a preferred embodiment, the SAMS of the invention has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

In another preferred embodiment, the SAMS of the invention has the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:8.

The SAMS of the present invention, for example naturally occurring SAMS or recombinantly produced SAMS and fragments or derivatives thereof, are preferably isolated to a state free from other proteins originating from the organisms from which they are isolated; more preferably, to a pure state, most preferably to a homogeneous state.

The present invention also relates to a nucleic acid molecule which is capable of encoding a methyltransferase capable of converting glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine).

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 and

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),

(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

A nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 is designated as any nucleotide sequence, for example DNA or RNA, preferably DNA, which hybridizes under standard conditions to a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 and encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine). The term 'standard conditions' designates a standard procedure used in heterologous hybridization to screen for genes with enough sequence homology (Maniatis, 1989). Basically, the hybridization filters are washed first in low stringency conditions and the stringency is gradually increased (usually by increasing the washing temperature) in order to select the positive signals from the background. For example, plaques or colonies of a gene bank to be screened can be transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes and hybridized with a PCR fragment, oligonucleotide or any other cloned DNA containing a fragment of the above gene of interest. The probe can be prepared for example by PCR as described in Example 6. Hybridization can be carried out at 42°C in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA, 1 M NaCl, 0.5% SDS, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 10x Denhardt's solution (Maniatis, 1989), 100 µg herring sperm DNA and 125 µg/ml polyA. The filters can be first washed with low stringency conditions, for example, at 37°C using 3x SSC, 0.5% SDS and 10% sodium pyrophosphate (Maniatis, 1989). The filters can then be exposed to x-ray film to monitor the number of positive clones. The washing temperature will be raised in 2-5°C intervals up to a temperature at which the background becomes invisible and only a few positive plaques are obtained. The positive plaques or colonies can then be

purified and the DNA can be isolated for Southern blot hybridization to check the size of the cloned insert for example. The cloned DNA obtained can be sequenced. On the basis of the sequence homology, it can be concluded that the DNA contains the gene of interest.

Preferably, a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 has about 60 %, preferably 70 %, more preferably 80 % and especially 90 % homology to a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence comprising nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5.

A fragment of a nucleotide sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleotide sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 is designated as any nucleic acid fragment, for example DNA or RNA, preferably DNA, which encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine).

A preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1.

A further preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5.

Other preferred nucleic acid molecules according to the invention comprise the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 or the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1, the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 being more preferred.

The present invention also relates to a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1, and

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),

(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

A nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 is designated as any nucleotide sequence, for example DNA or RNA, preferably DNA, which hybridizes under standard conditions to a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 and encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine. The term 'standard conditions' designates a standard procedure used in heterologous hybridization to screen for genes with enough sequence homology (Maniatis, 1989). Basically, the hybridization filters are washed first in low stringency conditions and the

stringency is gradually increased (usually by increasing the washing temperature) in order to select the positive signals from the background. For example, plaques or colonies of a gene bank to be screened can be transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes and hybridized with a PCR fragment, oligonucleotide or any other cloned DNA containing a fragment of the above gene of interest. The probe can be prepared for example by PCR as described in Example 6. Hybridization can be carried out at 42°C in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA, 1 M NaCl, 0.5% SDS, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 10x Denhardt's solution (Maniatis, 1989), 100 µg herring sperm DNA and 125 µg/ml polyA. The filters can be first washed with low stringency conditions, for example, at 37°C using 3x SSC, 0.5% SDS and 10% sodium pyrophosphate (Maniatis, 1989). The filters can then be exposed to x-ray film to monitor the number of positive clones. The washing temperature will be raised in 2-5°C intervals up to a temperature at which the background becomes invisible and only a few positive plaques are obtained. The positive plaques or colonies can then be purified and the DNA can be isolated for Southern blot hybridization to check the size of the cloned insert for example. The cloned DNA obtained can be sequenced. On the basis of the sequence homology, it can be concluded that the DNA contains the gene of interest.

Preferably, a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 has about 60 %, preferably 70 %, more preferably 80 % and especially 90 % homology to a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

A fragment of a nucleotide sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleotide sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 is designated as any nucleic acid fragment, for example DNA or RNA, preferably DNA, which

encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine to glycine betaine).

A preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.

A further preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention comprises the DNA sequence from 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

Other preferred nucleic acid molecules according to the invention comprise the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 or the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1, the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 being more preferred.

A further aspect of the present invention provides a nucleic acid molecule which encodes an enzyme capable of converting S-adenosyl methionine from methionine and ATP.

In a preferred embodiment of the nucleic acid molecule provided by the present invention, a nucleic acid molecule which encodes an enzyme capable of converting S-adenosyl methionine from methionine and ATP (SAMS) comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 and

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),

(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

A nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5 is designated as any nucleotide sequence, for example DNA or RNA, preferably DNA, which hybridizes under standard conditions to a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5 and encodes enzyme capable of converting S-adenosyl methionine from methionine and ATP. The term 'standard conditions' designates a standard procedure used in heterologous hybridization to screen for genes with enough sequence homology (Maniatis, 1989). Basically, the hybridization filters are washed first in low stringency conditions and the stringency is gradually increased (usually by increasing the washing temperature) in order to select the positive signals from the background. For example, plaques or colonies of a gene bank to be screened can be transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes and hybridized with a PCR fragment, oligonucleotide or any other cloned DNA containing a fragment of the above gene of interest. The probe can be prepared for example by PCR as described in Example 6. Hybridization can be carried out at 42°C in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM EDTA, 1 M NaCl, 0.5% SDS, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 10x Denhardt's solution (Maniatis, 1989), 100 µg herring sperm DNA and 125 µg/ml polyA. The filters can be first washed with low stringency conditions, for example, at 37°C using 3x SSC, 0.5% SDS and 10% sodium pyrophosphate (Maniatis, 1989). The filters can then be exposed to x-ray film to monitor the number of positive clones. The washing temperature will be raised in 2-5°C intervals up to a temperature at which the background becomes invisible and only a few positive plaques are obtained. The positive plaques or colonies can then be purified and the DNA can be isolated for Southern blot hybridization to check the size of the cloned insert for example. The cloned DNA obtained can be sequenced. On the basis of the sequence homology, it can be concluded that the DNA contains the gene of interest.

Preferably, a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5 has about 60 %, preferably 70 %, more preferably 80 % and especially 90 % homology to a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5.

A fragment of a nucleotide sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5 is designated as any nucleic acid fragment, for example DNA or RNA, preferably DNA, which encodes enzyme capable of converting S-adenosyl methionine from methionine and ATP.

A preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1.

A further preferred nucleic acid molecule according to the invention comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5.

Further subject matter of the invention is a DNA probe for use in identifying and cloning a nucleic acid molecule encoding a methyltransferase comprising at least 15 nucleotide bases, preferably 20 or more nucleotide bases, of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

Said DNA probes can be utilized in a method according to the invention for identifying and cloning a nucleic acid molecule encoding a methyltransferase comprising the steps of hybridizing said probe with a sample containing nucleic acid of an organism, detecting a nucleic acid molecule in said sample which hybridizes to said probe and isolating said detected nucleic acid molecule. Preferred methods include the use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Southern blotting techniques which are described herein and are familiar to the skilled person in the art.

Further subject matter of the invention are vectors for expression of the proteins according to the invention in prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts.

In this connection, expression vectors, for example phages, plasmids and DNA or RNA viruses, are capable of transforming and/or replicating and expressing the proteins of the present invention in prokaryotes and/or eukaryotes, for example bacteria, yeast, fungi and/or plants. Such expression vectors and methods for their construction are known to the skilled person and can be provided with nucleic acid elements for transcription, for example start codons, 'TATA' boxes, promoters, enhancers, stop codons, etc., and nucleic acid elements important for translation and processing of the nucleic acids transcribed from said vectors in a given host, for example ribosome binding sites, leader sequences for secretion of the proteins of the present invention, etc.

One embodiment of the invention is an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting glycine to sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) and/or sarcosine to dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) and/or a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a methyltransferase capable of converting sarcosine (N-methyl glycine) to dimethyl glycine and/or dimethyl glycine (N,N-dimethyl glycine) to betaine.

In a preferred embodiment, said expression vector comprises at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),

(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

In a further preferred embodiment, an expression vector is provided comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of catalyzing the synthesis of S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),

(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

When an expression vector of the present invention contains one of the above mentioned DNA sequences, preferred expression vectors comprise a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1, or
 - the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

When an expression vector of the present invention contains two of the above mentioned DNA sequences, preferred expression vectors comprise the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 and the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 and the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5, an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 and the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 being more preferred.

However, expression vectors comprising fragments and/or derivatives of the above mentioned sequences as well as other combinations of the above mentioned DNA sequences, for example a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1 and a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5 and a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1 or fragments and/or derivatives thereof are also subject matter of the present invention.

As provided for above, expression vectors of the present invention can additionally comprise a nucleic acid molecule coding for an enzyme capable of directly or indirectly increasing the intracellular amount of S-adenosyl methionine.

The genes encoding E. halochloris and A. halophila GSMT and SDMT enzymes are located in a "betaine operon". In E. halochloris the enzymes are encoded by two separate genes, whereas in A. halophila the two enzymes are coded by a single gene. In addition, the "betaine operon" contains a S-adenosyl methionine synthase (SAMS) gene. The SAMS enzyme catalyzes the synthesis of S-adenosyl methionine (SAM) from methionine and ATP, and thus, it is useful in the methylation reactions of the methyltransferases of the invention because it increases the concentration of the enzyme substrate SAM. Therefore co-expression of the SAMS gene with one or more of the methyltransferase genes of the invention can be used to increase betaine synthesis in these organisms.

Hence, in a preferred embodiment, the above mentioned expression vectors can additionally comprise a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5 or fragments and/or derivatives thereof when the organism to be transformed is E. halochloris or A. halophila.

Preferred expression vectors of this type, which also encode the methyltransferases of the present invention, comprise a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5, the latter being more preferred.

Alternatively, said nucleic acid molecule coding for an enzyme capable of directly or indirectly increasing the intracellular amount of S-adenosyl methionine originates or is derived from the organism which is to be transformed with said expression vector. For example, if the organism to be transformed with a nucleic acid, for example an expression

vector, according to the invention is *E. coli*, then it is possible for example to incorporate the gene coding for S-adenosyl methionine synthase from *E. coli* (see Markham et al., 1984). In a similar manner, if the organism to be transformed with a nucleic acid, for example an expression vector, according to the invention is *Bacillus*, then it is possible for example to incorporate the gene coding for S-adenosyl methionine synthase from *Bacillus subtilis* (see Yocum et al., 1996, and genebank accession number AF008220). Other nucleotide sequences which can be used for this purpose are the SAH hydrolase from *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* (genebank accession number U79766; *Arabidopsis thaliana*, accession number AF059581; *S. pombe*, accession number AL022072).

In another aspect of the present invention, the expression vectors can additionally comprise a nucleic acid molecule coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the intracellular amount of intracellular glycine. Preferably, said nucleic acid molecule coding for an enzyme capable of directly or indirectly increasing the intracellular amount of glycine originates or is derived from the organism which is to be transformed with said expression vector.

For example, the expression vector can include a nucleotide sequence encoding the enzyme phosphoglycerate dehydrogenase (*Bacillus subtilis*, accession number L47648; *S. pombe*, accession number AL022243; *Arabidopsis thaliana*, accession number AB010407), phosphoserine aminotransferase (*E. coli*, accession number AE000193, U00096; *Bacillus subtilis*, accession number Z99109, AL009126; *S. pombe*, accession number Z69944; *Arabidopsis thaliana*, accession number AL031135), phosphoserine phosphatase (*E. coli*, accession number AE000509; *S. cerevisiae*, accession number U36473; *S. pombe*, accession number D89261) and serine hydroxymethyl transferase (*Bacillus thearothermophilus*, E02190; *Candida albicans*, accession number AF009966; *Zea mays*, accession number W49449).

Further subject matter of the present invention is a recombinant prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism, for example, bacteria, yeast, fungus or plant, transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule of the invention as defined above, for example, an expression vector according to the invention as defined above.

When a recombinant organism according to the invention is a bacterium, said bacterium is preferably selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *Bacillus*, *Corynebacteria*, *Pseudomonas* and lactic acid bacteria and *Streptomyces*.

Numerous genetic tools for expressing genes in lactic acid bacteria have been developed in the past few years. The field has extensively been reviewed by Kuipers et al. (1997). This opens up many possibilities to develop an inducible expression system for the GSMT or SDMT genes in lactic acid bacteria. In addition, the methodology to express heterologous genes in *Bacillus* is well established and there are number of functional expression systems facilitating the overexpression of the GSMT and SDMT in *Bacillus*. (Sarvas, M. (1994)).

When the recombinant organism according to the invention is a yeast, said yeast is preferably selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Pichia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Candida* and *Hansenula*.

When the recombinant organism according to the invention is a fungus, said fungus is preferably selected from the group consisting of *Aspergillus*, *Trichoderma* and *Penicillium*.

When the recombinant organism according to the invention is a plant including but not limited to cereals, legumes, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, ornamentals and perennials, said plant is preferably selected from the group consisting of lettuces, *Capsicums*, grasses, clovers, alfalfa, beans,

sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, taro, groundnut, brassica, sugar beet, grapes, potato, tomato, rice, tobacco, rapeseed, maize, sorghum, cotton, soybean, barley, wheat, rye, canola, sunflower, linseed, pea, cucumber, carrot, ornamentals, perennial trees including citrus pear and almond and fruits including strawberry.

In this connection, the term 'plant' according to the invention is understood to include individual cells of a plant, plant seeds and callus material.

Further subject matter of the present invention is a method for the production of a recombinant organism according to the invention comprising the steps of transforming a host prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism, preferably a bacteria, yeast or fungus, with at least one nucleic acid molecule of the invention as defined above, for example an expression vector according to the invention as defined above. When the host organism is to be transformed with a nucleic acid molecule coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the intracellular amount of S-adenosyl methionine and/or glycine which originates from the host organism, this nucleic acid, for example an expression vector, can be transformed as a separate molecule or can be cloned into a expression vector according to the invention. Likewise, when the host organism is to be transformed with two different nucleic acid molecules each encoding a different methyltransferase of the invention, then transformation can be performed using these two nucleic acid molecules, e.g. expression vectors.

In addition, the present invention relates to a methyltransferase obtainable by culturing wild-type *Ectothiorhodospira* or *Actinopolyspora* or a recombinant prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism according to the invention and isolating said methyltransferase from the organism and/or the medium used to culture or process said organism as well as a method for the production of said methyltransferase comprising the above mentioned steps.

In this connection, a method for the purification of a methyltransferase capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to dimethyl glycine comprising the steps of subjecting a sample comprising the methyltransferase to a matrix containing adenosine, binding said methyltransferase to said matrix and eluting said methyltransferase from said matrix is also subject matter of the present invention. In addition, the above purification step can be combined with other methods of protein purification including ammonium sulfate precipitation, size exclusion chromatography, cation or anion exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, etc.

By expressing the genes encoding the GSMT and SDMT enzymes, it is possible to impart the capability of de novo synthesis of betaine to different organisms. Suitable host organisms are practically all bacteria which can be transformed with foreign DNA (for instance *E. coli*, *Bacillus*, *Corynebacteria*, *Pseudomonas*, lactic acid bacteria and *Streptomyces*) yeast (for instance *Saccharomyces*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Pichia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Candida* and *Hansenula*) fungi (for instance *Trichoderma*, *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*) or plants.

Therefore, subject matter of the present invention is a method for the production of betaine comprising the steps of culturing a recombinant organism according to the invention and isolating betaine from the organism and/or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

Further subject matter of the present invention is a method for the production of sarcosine and/or dimethyl glycine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),

and isolating sarcosine and/or dimethyl glycine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

Further subject matter of the invention is a method for increasing the intracellular concentration of sarcosine, dimethyl glycine and/or betaine in an organism, enhancing the general productivity of an organism, enhancing the salt tolerance of an organism, enhancing the freezing or cold tolerance of an organism, and/or enhancing the resistance of an organism to drought and/or low water stress comprising the steps of transforming an organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule of the invention as defined above, for example an expression vector according to the invention as defined above. Preferably, said organism is a bacteria, yeast, fungus or plant as recited above.

Further subject matter of the invention is a method for inducing pathogenesis-related proteins in a plant, increasing the resistance of a plant to attack by pathogens and/or increasing the nutritional value of a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with at least one nucleic acid molecule of the invention as defined above, for example an expression vector according to the invention as defined above. Preferably, said plant is a plant as recited above.

Pathogens include but are not limited to *Fusarium* sp. which causes root, shoot and leaf diseases in several plant types, *Rhizoctonia* sp. and *Pythium* sp. which cause soil borne

diseases in crops, *Erysiphe* sp. which cause mildew in several species, *Phytophthora infestans* which causes late blight in potato and tomato, *Alternaria solani* which causes early blight in potato, fungal diseases of soya caused by *Cephalosporium* sp., *Diaporthe* sp., *Cercospora* sp., *Septoria* sp. and *Peronospora* sp., nematodes for example *Meloidogone javanica* and *M. incognita* and insects.

Moreover, subject matter of the invention is a method for enhancing the pH tolerance and/or viability of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule of the invention as defined above, for example an expression vector according to the invention as defined above. Preferably, said microorganism is a bacteria, yeast or fungus as recited above.

The microorganisms of the invention can also be used as hosts in the field of recombinant DNA technology for the expression of a heterologous protein of interest. Therefore, subject matter of the invention is a method for decreasing inclusion body formation, increasing the stability of a heterologous protein and/or increasing the production of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule of the invention as defined above, for example an expression vector according to the invention as defined above, and transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing said heterologous protein. Said microorganism can be transformed with the nucleic acid molecule, for example an expression vector, according to the invention before, during or after the microorganism is transformed with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing said heterologous protein.

Additional subject matter of the invention is an animal feed or animal feed ingredient comprising a recombinant organism according to the invention.

The present invention is more closely illustrated by means of the following examples without limiting the invention to the examples.

Examples

Example 1. Demonstration of the methyltransferase pathway in *Actinopolyspora halophila* and *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris*

Preparation of the cell extracts

The growth medium of *Actinopolyspora halophila* ATCC 27976 used in all cultivations was the "complex medium" described by Sehgal and Gibbons (1960). Inoculum was grown at 37°C in a shake flask with agitation at 180 rpm until the late exponential growth phase. Then, 8 l of the above medium with 10 g/l glucose was inoculated with 800 ml culture. The pH in the fermentor (Biostat M (Braun) laboratory fermentor) was maintained at pH 6.5-7.5 with 0.5 M H₂SO₄ and 1 M NaOH. Agitation and aeration rates were 400 rpm and 10 l/min., respectively. The cultivation temperature was 37°C. Cells were grown to late exponential phase and harvested by centrifugation at 15,000 g for 15 min. Cells were stored at -75°C. Before disruption, the cells were thawed and suspended in Buffer I (22 % (w/v) sucrose, 27 mM EDTA, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5) in a ratio of 1.5 ml buffer I:1 g cells (wet weight).

The growth medium used in the cultivation of *Ectothiorhodospira halochloris* ATCC 35916 is described by Tschichholz and Trüper (1990). Cultivation was carried out anaerobically at 42°C in 1 l glass bottles with continuous stirring with magnetic stirrer. The cells were illuminated during growth (5,000 - 10,000 lux). 100 ml of pre-inoculum was inoculated into 1 l medium. Cells were grown until late exponential phase and harvested by centrifugation at 28,000 g for 20 min. After centrifugation, the cells were suspended in

Buffer II (560 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 4 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 50 μ M MgCl₂, 160 μ M EDTA) and disrupted with 1 mM PMSF and 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT). Buffer II was added in a ratio of 1.5 ml buffer II: 1 g cells (wet weight).

The cells were disrupted with a MSE Soniprep 150 sonicator. The suspension of *A. halophila* cells was sonicated in 20 ml batches (sonication pulses 30 s, cooling intervals 2 min) for 1 min / 2 ml cell suspension. The suspension of *E. halochloris* cells was sonicated in 5 ml batches (sonication pulses 15 s; cooling intervals 2 min) for 1 min/1.5 ml cell suspension. The cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 28,000 g at 1°C for 30 min. The cell free extracts were stored at -75°C.

Methyltransferase activity assay

Reactions were carried out in 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes with caps. The reaction mixture contained 25 μ l of 0.1 M substrate (glycine, sarcosine or dimethylglycine), 25 μ l of Buffer II (see above), 25 μ l 4 mM S-adenosyl-L-methionine containing 45 nCi S-adenosyl-L-[methyl-¹⁴C] methionine (Amersham) in 1/10 McIlvaine buffer (pH 3.0), and 25 μ l enzyme sample (e.g. cell free extract). The reaction was initiated by adding the enzyme. The reaction mixture was incubated for 30 min. at 37°C and the reaction was stopped by adding 75 μ l of charcoal suspension (133 g/l in 0.1 M acetic acid). The excess charcoal selectively adsorbs unreacted S-adenosyl methionine. The reaction mixtures were then incubated for 10 min at 0°C and centrifuged for 10 min in a Heraeus table top centrifuge. 75 μ l of the supernatant was added to 4.5 ml of aqueous scintillant (Hionic-Fluor, Packard) and the radioactive methylation products were measured in a liquid scintillation counter (Beckman LS 6000 IC). The enzyme sample was diluted to keep the reaction on the linear range (radioactivity of the supernatant below 10,000 DPM).

The cell extracts typically contain the following activities.

Table 1. Methyltransferase activities of *A. halophila* and *E. halochloris* cell extracts on different substrates.

Organism	*Activity/DPM/30 min. incubation		
	Glycine	Sarcosine	Dimethylglycine
<i>A. halophila</i>	900	89,000	84,000
<i>E. halochloris</i>	19,000	76,000	854,000

* The activity is expressed in units based on the radioactivity of the reaction products after 30 min. incubation

Characterization of the methylation reaction products in the reaction mixtures

The reaction products were characterized by HPLC. The reaction mixture supernatants as described above were filtered after centrifugation through a Minisart NML 0.2 μ m filter (Sartorius AG) and a 25 - 100 μ l sample was analyzed on AminexHPX-87C cation exchange column (300 x 7.8 mm) (BioRad Laboratories). The HPLC system used was a Varian 500 equipped with a HP 1047(B) refractive index detector and a Waters VISP717 injector. A μ bondapack C₁₈-precursor was used in the system. 5 mM CaSO₄ was used as the eluent and the flow rate was 0.6 ml/min. A 1 mM mixture of sarcosine, dimethylglycine and betaine were used as standards. In order to detect the radioactive products formed in the enzymatic reaction, 200 μ l fractions were collected during the chromatographic run. The fractions were analyzed in a liquid scintillation counter as described above. The dead-volume between the detector and sample outlet was determined by radioactive betaine and the retention time of the different fractions was calculated from the sample volume and eluent flow rate. The radioactivity of the fractions was plotted to the same Figure with the standards, which were used to identify the reaction products.

The results obtained by using *A. halophila* cell extracts are presented in Figure 1. The results indicate that all methylation products in the three-step reaction are formed during the incubation.

Example 2. Purification of glycine-sarcosine methyltransferase (GSMT) of *E. halochloris*

20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) was used through the purification procedure unless otherwise stated. All the buffers used contained 1 mM dithiothreitol.

Step 1: Ammonium sulphate fractionation. 25 ml of cell free extract (as described in example 1) was diluted to 90 ml and saturated ammonium sulphate in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, was added to achieve 20 % saturation. The solution was incubated for 30 min at 0°C and centrifuged at 15,000 g. The precipitate was discarded and the supernatant purified further.

Step 2. Hydrophobic interaction chromatography. The supernatant from step 1 (105 ml) was applied to a Butyl Sepharose 4 FF (Pharmacia) (10 x 50 mm) column pre-equilibrated with 20 % (w/v) ammonium sulphate in 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5. The column was washed with 45 ml of 20% (w/v) ammonium sulphate in 20 mM Tris-HCl and eluted with a linear gradient of 20-0% ammonium sulphate. The volume of the gradient was 80 ml and the flow rate was 2 ml/min. Fractions of 3 ml were collected. The active fractions (40 ml) were pooled. The ammonium sulphate was removed by gel filtration (Sephadex G-2S, Pharmacia).

Step 3. Ion exchange chromatography. The sample from step 2 (73 ml) was applied to a DEAE-Memsep 1000 HP (Millipore) (1.4 ml) column pre-equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5. The column was washed with 15 ml of buffer and eluted with a linear NaCl gradient (0 - 1 M). The volume of the gradient

was 60 ml and the flow rate was 3 ml/min. 2 ml fractions were collected. The active fractions (8 ml) were pooled and concentrated by ultrafiltration (Amicon Centriplus 30; Ultrafree MC 10,000 NMWL filter unit Millipore) to 100 μ l.

Step 4. Gel filtration. The concentrated sample from step 3 (100 μ l) was applied to a Superose 12 HR 30 (Pharmacia) column 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, containing 150 mM NaCl was used as the elution buffer with flow rate of 0.4 ml/min. 0.5 ml fractions were collected. The fractions containing glycine-sarcosine methyltransferase (GSMT) activity (1.5 ml) were collected and concentrated by ultrafiltration (Ultrafree MC 10,000 NMWL filter unit, Millipore) to 100 μ l.

The purity and the molecular weight were determined by gradient SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis according to the following procedure. Electrophoresis under denaturing conditions was carried out using pre-made polyacrylamide gel slabs (12 % Tris-glycine gel with 4 % stacking gel, Ready Gels, Biorad) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. Mid range molecular weight standard from Promega was used. Staining of the gel was performed with 0.25% (w/v) Coomassie Blue R-250 (Promega) in 50 % (v/v) methanol and 10% (v/v) acetic acid. Stained gels were destained with 10% (v/v) methanol and 5% acetic acid (Laemmli, 1970).

A typical SDS-gel of the purified *E. halochloris* GSMT is shown in Figure 2.

Example 3. Purification of sarcosine-dimethylglycine methyltransferase (SDMT) of *Actinopolyspora halophila*

An affinity purification method was developed for the purification of the sarcosine-dimethylglycine methyltransferase (SDMT). Purification of the protein was not achieved by standard purification methodology. The affinity column was prepared as follows. 5'AMP-Sepharose 4B

(Pharmacia) was treated with alkaline phosphatase to remove the phosphate group of the ligand. The gel was first swollen in water (5 ml of distilled water was used per 1 g of dry 5'AMP-Sepharose 4B). The swollen gel was then washed with 200 ml of distilled water. The gel was equilibrated with CIP-buffer (10 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 50 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.9). 10 μ l (100 U) of CIP (Calf Intestinal Alkaline Phosphatase (Finnzymes)) was added to the gel. The gel was incubated for 2 h at 37°C with occasional shaking. The reaction was stopped by washing the gel with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5.

18 ml of *A. halophila* cell free extract (as described in example 1) was applied to a column of adenosine-Sepharose (10 x 90 mm) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5. The column was washed with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, using 0.5 ml/min flow rate until the absorbance at 280 nm became constant. The protein bound to the column was eluted with 1 mM S-adenosyl methionine (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5). The active fractions were pooled (25.2 ml) and concentrated by ultrafiltration (Amicon Centriplus 30). The purity and the molecular weight was determined by gradient SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis as described above.

A typical SDS gel of the purified *A. halophila* SDMT is shown in Figure 2.

Example 4. Characterization of the properties of *A. halophila* SDMT protein

Determination of the molecular weight and sub-unit structure

Based on the SDS-electrophoresis (Figure 2), the molecular weight of *A. halophila* SDMT is approximately 32 kDa.

The molecular weight was also determined by gel filtration with Superose 12 HR 30 (Pharmacia) column. The flow rate was

0.4 ml/ml. The elution buffer was 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 containing 150 mM NaCl.

The molecular weight was calculated from a calibration curve made with a mixture of standard proteins. The mixture contained 0.5 mg/ml Blue Dextran (0.5 mg/ml), Ferritin (440 kDa), 7.0 mg/ml aldolase (158 kDa), 2.0 mg/ml ovalbumin (43 kDa) and 1.0 mg/ml chymotrypsinogen (25 kDa). The calculated molecular weight was 31.6 kDa, which indicates that the protein is a monomer.

The isoelectric point of the enzyme

The isoelectric focusing was performed with Pharmacia Phast system using gels with pH-gradient from pH 3 to 9 (IEF 3-9). A mixture of Pharmacia IEF standard proteins with pIs from 3.5 to 9.3 were used as standards. The gels were stained by silver staining as described in example 1. The results shown in Figure 3 show that the pI of the protein is approximately 4.1-4.2.

Substrate specificity

The activity of the purified protein was determined as described in example 1 with glycine, sarcosine and dimethyl glycine. The data presented in table 2 demonstrates that the isolated protein catalyzes step methylation reaction from sarcosine to dimethyl glycine and from dimethyl glycine to betaine.

Table 2. The activity of *A. halophila* SDMT on different substrates.

Substrate	*Activity (DPM/30 min.)
Glycine	0
Sarcosine	14,500
Dimethylglycine	45,800

- * The activity is expressed in arbitrary units based on the radioactivity of the reaction products after 30 min. incubation.

pH Optimum

The pH-optimum of the two methylation reactions were determined by using following buffers: 0.1 M piperazine buffer, pH 5.0; 0.1 M Bis-Tris buffer, pH 6.0; 0.1 M Bis-Tris buffer, pH 7.0; 0.1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0; 0.1 M Tris-HCl, pH 9.0; 0.1 methanolamine, pH 10. The exact pH values of the reaction mixtures were measured. It can be concluded from Figure 4 that the pH optimum of the both enzyme reactions is at pH 7.5.

Temperature optimum

The temperature dependence of the enzymatic reactions were determined with sarcosine and dimethyl glycine. As seen in Figure 5. the temperature optimum is approximately 45 - 50°C. When the temperature is elevated above 50°C, the enzyme is rapidly inactivated.

Example 5 In vitro synthesis of betaine by using purified E. halochloris GSMT and A. halophila SDMT

The purified GSMT from E. halochloris and SDMT from A. halophila were concentrated by ultrafiltration (Ultrafree MC 10,000 NWML filter unit, Millipore) to protein concentrations 4.2 mg/ml and 5.6 mg/ml, respectively. The protein concentration was determined by measuring the absorbance at 280 nm and calculated by the formula: 1 mg protein/ml = 1.0 A_{280} .

The reaction mixture contained 50 μ l 5.0 mM glycine, 50 μ l 32 mM S-adenosyl methionine in water containing 640 nCi S-adenosyl-L-[methyl- 14 C]-methionine (Amersham), 50 μ l Buffer

II (see example 1), 25 μ l GSMT of *E. halochloris* and 25 μ l SDMT of *A. halophila*. The reaction was initiated by adding the enzymes. The reaction mixture was incubated for 2 h at 37°C and the reaction was stopped by adding 150 μ l of charcoal suspension. The reaction mixtures were then incubated for 10 min at 0°C and centrifuged for 10 min in a Heraeus table top centrifuge. The supernatants were filtered through Minisart NML 0.2 μ m filter (Sartorius AG). The identification of the reaction products was performed by HPLC as described in example 2.

The chromatogram is presented in Figure 6 and it shows peaks corresponding to the retention times of sarcosine, dimethylglycine and betaine.

Example 6. Isolation of the genes of *E. halochloris* GSMT and *A. halophila* SDMT

Determination of the N-terminal and internal peptide sequences

The N-terminal and tryptic peptides peptide sequences of the purified proteins were determined by using Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Procise 494A protein sequencing system as described by Kerovuo et al., 1998. The peptide sequences obtained are shown in table 3.

Table 3. The peptide sequences obtained from purified *E. halochloris* GSMT and *halophila* SDMT. The sequences used to make the PCR primers are underlined.

Organism/SEQ ID NO: Sequence

A. halophila

SEQ ID NO:9

EKSYRTEDEFVDMYSNAVHTARDYYNSEDASNFYHHV
(N-terminus)

SEQ ID NO:10

GSVLETDPMASDDAK

SEQ ID NO:11

TGLRNYQAGN

SEQ ID NO:12	LXELGPILDRHLDSG
SEQ ID NO:13	ELTRLGLONIEFEDLSEYLPVHYGR
SEQ ID NO:14	VDISPETRILDLGSGYGA
E. halochloris.	
SEQ ID NO:15	NTTT/EEODEFGADPTKVRDTEYTE (N-terminus)
SEQ ID NO:16	VRDTHYTEEYVD
SEQ ID NO:17	DYTRRLMHEVGFQK
SEQ ID NO:18	ATYRDADEDFLHVAEK
SEQ ID NO:19	VRDTHYTEEYVDGFVDKWDDLID

Preparation and screening of the chromosomal gene banks

The genomic DNA from both microbes was isolated essentially as described in Ausubel et al. (1991). The chromosomal DNAs were partially digested with SacI and ligated to SacI digested dephosphorylated lambda ZapII arms (Stratagene, La Jolla, California, USA) and packaged to lambda particles using Gigapack III Gold packing extract (Stratagene, La Jolla, California, USA) according to protocol provided by manufacturer. The chromosomal DNA isolated from the organisms was used as the template DNA in the PCR reactions.

The probes were made by PCR using following degenerate primers. The primers were designed according to Sambrook et al. (1989).

A. halophila

SEQ ID NO:20

5'-GA(A/G)GA(C/T)GA(A/G)TT(C/T)GTIGA(C/T)ATG T-3'

SEQ ID NO:21

(5'-(C/T)TG(A/G)TT(T/A/G)AT(T/C)TC(G/A)AA(T/C)TC(A/G)TC-3')

E. halochloris

SEQ ID NO:22

5'-GA(A/G)CA(A/G)GA(T/C)TT(T/C)GGIGCIGA(T/C) CC-3'

SEQ ID NO:23

5'-A(A/G) (A/G)AA(A/G)AA(A/G)TCIGG(A/G)TCIGC(A/G)TC-3'

The amplification was performed under the following conditions.

A. halophila- 3 cycles of 1 min. at 94°C for denaturation, 1 min at 37°C annealing and 2 min at 72°C for synthesis, 32 cycles of 1 min at 94°C for denaturation, 1 min at 46°C annealing and 2 min at 72°C for synthesis. AmpliTac DNA Polymerase (Perkin Elmer) was used in the reaction. 1 mM MgCl₂ was added to the reaction mixture. Otherwise standard reagents were used.

E. halochloris - 34 cycles of 1 min at 94° for denaturation, 1 min at 42°C annealing and 2 min at 72°C for synthesis. AmpliTac DNA Polymerase (Perkin Elmer) was used in the reaction. 1 % (v/v) formamide, 1% (v/v) dimethyl sulfoxide and 6 mM MgCl₂ were added to the reaction mixture. Gitsch-buffer (reference) was used in the reaction.

The PCR-fragments obtained were labeled with rediprime DNA labelling system (Amersham Life Science) according to the instructions given by the manufacturer.

A total of 50,000 plaques of both libraries were screened and the positive lambda clones were cored and excised with ExAssist helper phage (Stratagene, San Diego, USA) to obtain phagemids. CsCl-gradient purified (Sambrook et al., 1989) plasmid DNAs were used in DNA sequencing (Zagursky et al., 1986). The lengths of the cloned fragments were 3.5 kb (*A. halophila*) and 5.0 kb (*E. halochloris*).

Analysis of the sequencing data

E. halochloris - Sequence analysis of the DNA fragments indicated that the *E. halochloris* clone contains 3 ORFs. On

the basis of the peptide sequences it can be concluded that the *E. halochloris* GSMT is encoded by the first ORF of the fragment. In addition, based on the sequence homology with the *A. halophila* SDMT, it can be concluded that the second ORF of *E. halochloris* clone contains a SDMT gene. This has also been demonstrated by expressing the gene in *E. coli* (Example 8).

A. halophila - Sequence analysis of the DNA fragments indicated that the *A. halophila* clone contains 2 ORFs. *A. halophila* SDMT protein is coded by the 3'-end of the first ORF of the *A. halophila* clone. The 5'-end of the same ORF is very homologous to the *E. halochloris* GSMT. These data indicate that the GSMT and SDMT are transcribed from a single gene and the protein isolated from the organism is a processing product.

In addition to the methyltransferases, the "betaine operon" codes for a third gene which is homologous to number of S-adenosyl-methionine synthases. The operon structure is schematically shown in Figure 7. The nucleotide and amino acids sequences of the cloned genes have been shown in Figures 8 and 9.

Example 7 Expression of *E. halochloris* GSMT in *E. coli*

Expression of the gene

The gene coding for the *E. halochloris* GSMT was amplified by PCR. The purified plasmid used for DNA sequencing in example 6 was used as the template for the PCR reaction. The following primers were used in the PCR reaction:

primer 1:

5'-CGGACCATGGATACGACTACTGAGCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:24)

(5'-end oligonucleotide) and

primer 2:

5'-GCTCAGATCTGTCCTCCTCCCGATATTCCTTCTC-3' (SEQ ID NO:25)
(3'-end oligonucleotide)

The 3'-end of the primers are homologous to the 5'- and 3'-end of the GSMT gene. The 5'-end oligonucleotide hybridizes to position 221-241 and the 3'-end to the position 1001-1024. (See Figure 8). The primer hybridizing to the 5'-end contains an extra NcoI restriction site such that the nucleotide A at position 224 in Figure 8 is replaced by the nucleotide G in the primer and the 3'-end primer contains a BglII site which were used for cloning.

The amplification was performed in the following conditions: 34 cycles of 1 min at 94°C for denaturation. 1 min at 50 °C annealing and 2 min at 72°C for synthesis. Pfu Polymerase (Stratagene) was used in the reaction. The amplified fragments were purified with Qiaquick DNA purification Kit (Qiagen, Santa Clara, USA) and ligated into NcoI/BglII cut PQE-60 expression vectors (Qiagen, Santa Clara, USA). A schematic presentation of the plasmid (pEGSM) is shown in Figure 10. Competent XL-1 Blue MPF' cells were transformed with this ligation mix according to Hanahan et al. (1983). Plasmid minipreps of the transformants were prepared and the presence of the insert was established by cutting the plasmids with Nco I and Bgl II and by separating the resulting fragments by agarose gel electrophoresis.

GSMT transformants were grown overnight in 2.5 ml of LB broth containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin. As a control, E. coli XLI Blue MRF' transformed with the PQE-60 without the insert was grown.

0.5 ml was inoculated to 1.5 ml of LB broth with ampicillin. The cultures were grown at 200 rpm for 30 min at 37°C and isopropyl-β-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to a final concentration of 1 mM to induce the enzyme synthesis. After 3

h 30 min the cells were separated by centrifugation (1,000 g, 3 min).

The cell pellet was suspended in 100 μ l Buffer II containing 1 mM PMSF (See example 1) and the cells were disrupted with a MSE Soniprep 150 sonicator. The cell suspension was sonicated with sonication pulses of 5 s for 10 s. The samples were cooled on ice between the pulses. The cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 13,000 rpm for 30 min at 4°C in a Heraeus table top centrifuge. The activities of the supernatants were determined as in example 1.

The activity of the cell extracts of the transformants was assayed as described in example 1. The activities using glycine and sarcosine as substrates were typically 3,000-5,000 dpm/30 min and 1,000-2,000 dpm/30 min., respectively.

Salt tolerance of *E. coli* clones expressing the *E. halochloris* GSMT

The strains used in these tests were the positive clone designated EGSM and *E. coli* XLI Blue MRF' transformed with the cloning vector PQE-60. The growth medium used in this test was the synthetic medium MM63 described by Larsen et al. (1987) supplemented with 1.5 ml/l of vitamin solution VA (Imhoff and Trüper, 1977) and 100 μ l/ml ampicillin.

The bacterial strains were grown to mid-exponential growth phases with shaking at 180 rpm at 37°C and centrifuged (1,000 g, 15 min). The cells were resuspended in the growth medium to absorbance of 0.9 at 600 nm.

The automatic turbidimetric system Bioscreen (Labsystems) was used for monitoring the growth. 30 μ l was inoculated to 300 μ l of the medium with 0 or 0.2 M NaCl and 1 mM IPTG (final concentrations). Cells were grown at 37°C with intensive and

continuous shaking. Growth was followed by absorbance measurements in Bioscreen at 600 nm.

The growth curves of EGSM and *E. coli* transformed with PQE-60 in a medium without added NaCl are presented in and with 0.2 M NaCl in Figure 11. It can be concluded from the data that EGSM has an increased tolerance towards osmotic stress.

Example 8. Expression of *E. halochloris* SDMT in *E. coli*

The gene encoding the *E. halochloris* SDMT was amplified by PCR. The purified plasmid used for DNA sequencing in example 6 was used as the template for the PCR reaction. The following primers were used in the PCR reaction:

primer 3:

5'-GCATGCCATGGCGACGCGCTACGACGATCAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:26)
(5'-end oligonucleotide) and

primer 4:

5'-GGGAAGATCTCCCTTTGCGGAAGTAAAAGATACC-3' (SEQ ID NO:27)
(3'-end oligonucleotide)

The primers are homologous to the 5'- and 3'-end of the *E. halochloris* SDMT gene. The 5'-end oligonucleotide hybridizes to position 1031-1054 and the 3'-end to the position 1844-1867 (Figure 8). The primer hybridizing to the 5'-end contains an extra NcoI restriction site and the 3'-end primer a BglII site which were used for cloning of the fragment.

The preparation of the DNA construct and the cultivation of the positive *E. coli* clones were done according to example 7. A schematic presentation of the expression plasmid (pESDM) is shown in Figure 10.

The cultivations and preparation of the cell-free extracts were performed essentially as described in example 7. The

sonication of the cell extract pulses was shortened to 3 x 2 second intervals (total sonication time was 6 s).

The activity of the cell extracts of the transformants was assayed as described in example 1. The activities using sarcosine and dimethyl glycine as substrates were typically 20,000 dpm/30 min. with both substrates.

Example 9. Co-expression of *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT in *E. coli*

The DNA construct made for this experiment contains both GSMT and SDMT genes separated by a short (3 nucleotides long) linker. The DNA fragment was obtained by amplification of the purified plasmid used for DNA sequencing in example 6.

The following primers were used in the amplification:

primer 1:

5'-CGGACCATGGATACGACTACTGAGCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:24)
(5'-end oligonucleotide) and

primer 4:

5'-GGGAAGATCTCCCTTTGCGGAAGTAAAAGATACC-3' (SEQ ID NO:27)
(3'-end oligonucleotide)

The primers are homologous to the 5'-end of the *E. halochloris* GSMT and the 3'-end of the *E. halochloris* SDMT gene. The 5'-end oligonucleotide hybridizes to position 221-241 and the 3'-end to the position 1844-1867 (See Figure 8). The primer hybridizing to the 5'-end contains an extra NcoI restriction site and the 3'-end primer a BglII site.

The preparation of the DNA construct and the cultivation of the positive *E. coli* clones were done according to example 7. A schematic presentation of the expression plasmid (pEhFU) is shown in Figure 10. The induction and preparation of the

cell-free extracts was performed essentially as described in example 9

The enzymatic activities were assayed as described in example I. The cell extracts of the transformants clearly showed activity with glycine, sarcosine and dimethylglycine. The activities of the cell extracts with the three substrates were all over 20,000 dpm/30 min.

Salt tolerance *E. coli* clones expressing the *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT

The test was performed essentially as described in example 7. The positive clone designated EhFU was used in this test.

The growth curves of EhFU and *E. coli* with PQE-60 in a medium without added NaCl are presented in and with 0.2 M NaCl in Figure 12. It can be concluded from the data that EhFU has an increased tolerance to osmotic stress.

Betaine synthesis in *E. coli* clones expressing the *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT

The growth medium used in this test was the synthetic medium MM63 described by Larsen et al. (1987) supplemented with 1.5 ml/l of vitamin solution VA (Imboff and Trüper, 1977) and 100 µl/ml ampicillin. The medium contained 1% (w/v) glucose.

The clone EhFU (Figure 10) and the control strain (*E. coli* XL1-Blue MRF' transformed with the cloning vector PQE-60) were grown to mid-exponential phase with shaking at 180 rpm at 37°C. The cells were centrifuged at 1,000 g for 10 min and resuspended in the growth medium so that the turbidity $A_{600\text{nm}}$ was 0.640. 5 ml of this cell suspension was inoculated to 50 ml of media containing 0.22 or 0.33 M NaCl and 25 mM L-methionine. The bacterial strains were grown for 2 h with shaking at 180 rpm at 37°C and 1 mM IPTG was added. Growth was followed by measuring the turbidity at 600 nm. The cells

were grown to early stationary phase. Cells from 45 ml of culture were harvested by centrifugation at 1,000 g for 15 min and washed once with the growth medium without glucose.

The cell pellets were suspended in 2 ml of water and kept in a boiling water bath for 10 min. The suspension was centrifuged for 15 min at 23,000 g and the supernatant collected and the pellet resuspended in water. This extraction was repeated twice. The three supernatants were combined. The volumes of supernatants were measured and the supernatants were filtered and analyzed by HPLC as described in example 1.

A similar experiment was performed also without added L-methionine.

The betaine produced inside the cells is presented in table 4.

Table 4. The amount of betaine synthesized inside the cells in 1 ml of culture when grown in MM63

		Betaine concentration in the cells ($\mu\text{g}/\text{A}_{600\text{ml}}$)	
Transformant	NaCl (mol/l)	Medium supplemented with 25 MM methionine	No methionine added
EhFU	0	n.d.	1.0
	0.2	3.5	1.1
	0.3	2.4	0.9
PQE-60	0.2	0	0
	0.3	0	0

The results show that the E. coli clone expressing the E. halochloris GSMT and SDMT genes synthesizes betaine in these cells. The highest amount of betaine synthesized corresponds

roughly to 1% (0.2 M NaCl) and 0.5 % (0.3 M NaCl) of the cell dry weight

Example 10. Expression of the DNA fragment encoding the protein isolated as *A. halophila* SDMT in *E. coli*

The gene sequencing results revealed that a single gene codes for the *A. halophila* GSMT and SDMT. The fusion protein was not, however, successfully purified from the *A. halophila* cell extracts. Instead a protein with SDMT activity was isolated. In this experiment the corresponding part of the GSMT-SDMT gene is expressed in *E. coli*.

The gene fragment encoding the SDMT enzyme activity was amplified by PCR. The genomic DNA from *A. halophila* isolated in example 6 was used as the template for the PCR reaction. The following primers were used in the amplification:

primer 5:

5'-GCTGCCATGGAGAAGAGCTACCGCACCGAG-3' (SEQ ID NO:28)
(5'-end oligonucleotide) and

primer 6:

5'-GGGAAGATCTTGCCCTGGCGTGGATGATGCCCCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:29)
(3-end oligonucleotide)

The primers are homologous to the 5'- and 3'-end of the ASDMT gene. The 5'-end oligonucleotide hybridizes to position 1048-1068 and the 3'-end to the position 1879-1902 (See Figure 9). The primer hybridizing to the 5'-end contains an extra *NcoI* restriction site and the 3'-end primer a *BglII* site.

The preparation of the DNA construct and the cultivation of the positive *E. coli* clones were done according to example 7. A schematic presentation of the expression plasmid (pASDM) is shown in Figure 10. The induction and preparation of the cell free extracts was performed essentially as described in example 9.

The enzymatic activities were assayed as described in example 1. The cell extracts of the transformants clearly showed SDMT activity. The activities on sarcosine and dimethyl glycine were typically 20,000 dpm/30 min. with both substrates. There was no activity on glycine.

Example 11. Expression of *A. halophila* GSMT-SDMT fusion protein in *E. coli*

The gene fragment encoding GSMT and SDMT of *A. halophila* was amplified by PCR. Primers used were:

primer 7:

5'-CATGCCATGGCCAAGAGCGTGGACGATCTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:30)
(5'-end oligonucleotide) and

primer 6:

5'-GGGAAGATCTTGCCCTGGCGTGGATGATGCCCCA-3' (SEQ ID NO:29)
(3-end oligonucleotide)

The primers are homologous to the 5'- and 3'-end of the AGSMT-ASDMT gene. The 5'-end oligonucleotide hybridizes to position 208-231 and the 3'-end to the position 1879-1902 (See Figure 9). The primer hybridizing to the 5'-end contains an extra NcoI restriction site such that the nucleotide A at position 211 in Figure 9 is replaced by the nucleotide G in the primer and the 3'-end primer contains a BglII site.

The purified plasmid used for DNA-sequencing in example 6 was used as a template for the PCR reaction. The amplification was performed in following conditions: 34 cycles of 30 s at 94°C for denaturation, 1 min at 50°C annealing and 2 min at 72°C for synthesis. Ligation of the amplification product into NcoI/BglII cut PQE-60 and the transformation of XL-1 Blue MRF⁺ cells was performed as in example 7. A schematic presentation of the expression plasmid is shown in Figure 10.

The induction and preparation of the cell-free extracts was performed essentially as in example 9 except that the sonication pulses were shortened to 2 s and the total sonication time to 6 s. The cell-free extract was analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis as in example 2. The pellet from the centrifuged suspension was suspended to 10 mM Tris-HCl-buffer, pH 8.0 containing 8 M urea and 0.1 M Na_3PO_4 to solubilize the proteins of the pellet and centrifuged for 15 min in a Heraeus table top centrifuge at 13,000 rpm. The supernatants were analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis as in example 2.

The enzymatic activities were assayed as described in example 1. The cell extracts of the transformants clearly showed SDMT activity. The activities on sarcosine and dimethyl glycine were typically 10,000 dpm/30 min and 20,000 dpm/30 min., respectively. There was no activity on glycine.

The SDS-polyacrylamide gel of the cell-free extract showed no major protein band of correct size. However, the insoluble pellet solubilized with 8 M urea showed a major band corresponding to the molecular weight of the GSMT-SDMT fusion protein. The results indicate that when *A. halophila* GSMT-SDMT is over-expressed in *E. coli* it forms inclusion bodies. However, a fraction of the protein - which corresponds the SDMT - is proteolytically cleaved and remains soluble in the cells.

Example 12. Expression of *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT in tobacco and potato

Tobacco and potato plants can be transformed by *Agrobacterium* mediated transformation system. Identical DNA construct can be used for both plants.

The GSMT gene is first transformed into the plant using a plasmid containing a kanamycin resistance marker. Positive transgenic plants obtained by screening for the enzyme

activity are then used as host plants for second transformation of the SDMT gene. Another selection marker, hygromycin selection is used in the second transformation. Experiments are performed using stable transformants of the F_1 generation.

The genes of *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT are amplified by PCR by using plasmid pEFU (see example 10) as the template. The primers used hybridize to the same regions of the DNA as shown in Fig. 8 (GSMT: primer 1 and primer 2; SDMT: primer 3 and primer 4). The final DNA constructs are made using suitable restriction sites to transfer the genes to plant transformation vectors. PBin 19 based pGPTV vectors (Becker et al, 1992) are used which have a strong 35S promoter and the CaMv polyadenylation signal.

The resulting plasmids are transformed to *A. tumefaciens* strains. Strain EHA 105 (Hood, E.E. et al., (1993) is used as a vector to transform tobacco basically as described by Rogers et al. (1986). Strain C1C58p-GV3850 (Zambryski et al., (1983); Van Larabece et al., (1974)) is used as an alternative host to transform potato *Solanum tuberosum* (Desiré) according to Dietze et al. (1995).

The transformants are analyzed by Southern blot analysis to check for the presence of the genes. PCR-amplified, DIG-labelled (Boehringer) 200 bp gene fragments are used as a probe. The enzymatic activities of the cell extracts of transgenic plants and the levels of sarcosine, dimethyl glycine and betaine are analyzed as described in Example 1.

Stress tolerance, for example, tolerance to drought, salinity, cold or freezing, resistance to pathogens, etc., is determined according to methods known in the art, for example, methods described in the technological background section of the present application.

Example 13. Expression of *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT in rice

The plasmid constructions described in Example 13 are also used to transfer the GSMT and SDMT genes to rice by particle bombardment. The GSMT are transferred to rice first and positive regenerated transformants are used as host plants for the SDMT transformation.

The following procedure are used. Immature *Oryza sativa* embryos of the Japonica variety Taipei 309 are aseptically isolated 10-14 days after pollination from greenhouse plants and plated scutulum site up on solid MS medium (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) containing 3% sucrose, 2 mg/l 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and 50 mg/l cefotaxime (MS1). After 4-6 days (28°C, darkness) embryos are transferred to solid MS medium containing 10% sucrose, 2 mg/l 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and 50 mg/l cefotaxime (MS2) and subjected within 1 hour to microprojectile bombardment with a particle inflow gun. The DNA fragment containing the mehtyltransferase gene and the selective marker (5 µg) is precipitated on 1-3 mm gold particles (Aldrich) as described by Vain et al., (1993). Gold particles (400 mg per bombardment) are accelerated to the target with a particle inflow gun (Finer et al., (1992) at a pressure of 6 bar. Embryos are placed 16 cm below the syringe filter. Twenty four hours post-bombardment embryos are subjected to selection on solid media (containing hygromycin or kanamycin) and incubated at 28°C in the dark.

After one week embryos are transferred to a liquid selection media, R2 medium (Ohira et al., (1973) supplemented with: 3% sucrose, 1 mg/l thiamine, 1 mg/l 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, 50 mg/l cefotaxime and 20 mg/l hygromycin B or kanamycin. The embryos are incubated with shaking at 28°C in the dark and subcultured weekly. Developing calli are isolated 3 to 6 weeks later, and transferred to a callus increasing media (R2 medium supplemented with: 6% sucrose, MS

vitamins, 100 mg/l inositol, 2 mg/l 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, 50 mg/l cefotaxime and 20 mg/l hygromycin B kanamycin). The calli are incubated in this media at 28°C in the dark and subcultured weekly.

Resistant calli are transferred to solid R2 regeneration media supplemented with 2% sucrose, 3% sorbitol, 20 mg/l hygromycin B, 1 mg/l zeatin, 0.5 mg/l indole-3-acetic acid, MS vitamins and 0.65% agarose. The callus tissue is maintained at 28°C with 12 h of light in order to enhance shoot formation. The calli are then subcultured every 3 weeks until shoots had reached a length of 2-3 cm. They are transferred to half-strength MS rooting medium without hormones, supplemented with 1.5% sucrose and 0.3% gelrite^R (Sigma). After 2-4 weeks of cultivation, plantlets are transferred directly to the green-house and planted in soil. Plantlets are grown in 7 liter aquaculture pots with fertilizer enriched earth, 3 plants per pot (day: 12 h, 28°C, 80% humidity; night: 12h, 21°C, 60% humidity) until they flower and set seeds.

To check the presence of the transgene, complexity of insertion(s) and number of copies present, Southern blot analysis is performed as described previously (Burkhardt et al., 1997). A PCR amplified, DIG-labelled (Boehringer) 200-bp fragment of the coding region of the GSMT or SDMT genes is used as a probe.

The enzymatic activities of the cell extracts of transgenic plants and the levels of sarcosine, dimethyl glycine and betaine are analyzed as described in Example 1.

Stress tolerance, for example, tolerance to drought, salinity, cold or freezing, resistance to pathogens, etc., is determined according to methods known in the art, for example, methods described in the technological background section of the present application.

Example 14. Expression of the *E. halochloris* GSMT and SDMT in yeast

pYX242 plasmid (R&D systems, USA) was used for expressing the GSMT and SDMT genes in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The plasmid used (pYX242) is a *E. coli*-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shuttle vector containing a bacterial origin of replication and ampicillin resistance gene, a yeast (*S. cerevisiae*) origin of replication from 2 μ m DNA, and the yeast LEU2 gene for selection in yeast. The two genes are expressed under the yeast triose phosphate isomerase (TPI) promoter.

The DNA of the plasmid pEFU described in Example 10 was used as the template of PCR reactions. The primers used hybridize to DNA sequences shown in Fig. 8 (primer 1 and primer 4) and thus amplify both the GSMT and SDMT genes. The PCR fragment was ligated to the promoter of the expression plasmid with standard methods. A fragment containing a TPI transcription terminator and a fragment containing the TPI promoter was ligated between the two genes. Thus, both genes are expressed under the TPI promoter. The primers used in the amplification of the fragments ligated in the expression plasmid contained suitable restriction sites that were used in the cloning. *S. cerevisiae* GRF18 (MAT α , leu2-3, 11, his3-11.15) was used as the host for transformation. The transformation was performed according to Ito et al. using the standard lithium chloride procedure (Ito et al., (1983) Bacteriol. 153, 163-170) using the LEU2 marker of pYX242 for selection.

The transformants were grown in YNB-medium supplemented with amino acid mixture without leucine (R & D systems product manual). The cultivation was done overnight at 30°C by shaking at 180 rpm. 5 ml of culture supernatant was centrifuged (1,700 g, 10 min) and the cell pellet was suspended in 200 μ l of the assay buffer (see example 1) supplemented with 1 mM PMSF. The cells were broken by vortexing with glass beads (10 x 1 min intervals). The cells

were kept on ice between the pulses. The cell debris was centrifuged down (30 min, 4°C, 10,000g).

The methylase activities were assayed from the supernatant as described in example 1. The relative enzyme activities on different substrates were the following: glycine - 17,000 dpm/30 min; sarcosine - 71,000 dpm/30 min and dimethyl glycine - 530,000 dpm/30 min.

References

- Agboma, P. (1977) PhD Thesis, University of Helsinki,
Department of Plant production, Section of Crop Husbandry
- Augustine, P. and McNaughton, J.L. (1966) Proceedings of the
Maryland Nutrition Conference, March 21-22, pp. 31-36
- Ausubel, F.M., Brent, R., Kingston, R.E., Moore, D.D.,
Seidman, J.G. Smith, J.A. and Struhl, K. (1991) Current
Protocols in Molecular Biology. New York:Wiley
- Barak, A.J., Beckenhauer, H.C., Junnila, M. Turna, D.J.
(1993) Alcoholism: Clinical Exp. Res. 17, 552-555
- Becker, D., Kemper, E. Schell, J., Masterson, R., (1992)
Plant Molecular Biology 20, 1195-1197
- Bhandari, P., Gowrishankar, J., (1997) J. Bacteriol. 179,
4403-4406
- Blackwell, J.R., Horgan R. (1991) FEBS Letters 295, 10-12
- Blunden, G., Wilson, S., Romero, M.A., Wu, Y., Jenkins, T.,
Tyihar, E. (1996) Chem. Listy 90, 679-706
- Boch et al. (1996) J. Bacteriol. 178, 5121-5129
- Boch, J., Kempf, B. Bremer, E. (1994) J. bacteriol. 176,
5364-5371
- Bohnert, H.J., Jensen, R.G. (1996) Tibtech 14, 89-97
- Brouquisse, R., Weigel, P., Rhodes, D., Yocum, C.F., Hanson
A.D. (1989) Plant Physiol. 90, 322-329

Burkhardt, P.K., Beyer, P., Wuenn, J., Kloeti, A., Armstrong, G.A., Schledz, M., von Lintig, J., Potrykus, I. (1997) Plant Journal 11, 1071-1078

Chambers, S. and Kunin, C.M (1985) J. Infectious Diseases 152, 1308-1316

Coughlan, S., Heber, U. (1982) Planta 156, 62-69

Csonka L.N. (1989) Microbiological reviews 53, 121-147

Deshnium, P., Gombos, Z., Nishiyama, Y., Murata, N. (1997) J. Bacteriol. 179, 339-344

Dietze J., Blau, A. and Willmitzer, L. (1995) in Gene transfer in plants, pp.24-29, Potrykus, I., and Spangenberg, G. (eds), Springer-Verlag, Berlin

Ferket, P.R. (1994) Proceedings of the Smith Beecham Animal Health Poresetter Seminar, January 10, pp. 1-7

Finer et al. (1992) Plant Cell Rep., 11, 323-328

Galinski, E.A. (1993) Experientia 49, 487-496

Galinski, E.A. and Trüper, H.G. (1982) FEMS Microbiol. Lett. 13:357-360

Galinski, E.A., Trüper, H.G. (1994) FEMS Microbiol. Rev. 15, 95-108

Glaasker E., Konongs, W., E., Poolman B (1996) J. Bacteriol. 178, 575-582

Gorham, J. (1995) Betaines in higher plants - biosynthesis and role in stress metabolism. In Amino acids and their derivatives in higher plants, ed. R.M. Wallsgrove, pp. 171-203. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

- Guo, Y., Zhang, L., Xiao, G., Cao, S., Gu, D., Tian, W.,
Chen. S. (1997) Science in China 40, 496-501
- Hanahan, D. (1983) Studies on transformaiton of Escherichia
coli with plasmids. J. Mol., Biol. 166:557-580
- Hanson, A.D., May, A.M., Grumet, R., bode, J., Jamison, G.C.
(1985) Proc. Natl., Acad. Sci. USA 82, 3678-3682
- Hayashi, H., Alia, Mustardy, L., Deshnum, P., Ida, M.,
Murata, M. (1997) Plant. J. 12, 133-142
- Holmberg, N. (1996) PhD Thesis, Department of Pure and
Applied Biochemistry, Lund University
- Holmström, K-O, Welin, B., Mandal, A., Kristiansdottir, I.,
Teeri, Y.Y., Lamark, T., Ström, A., Palva, T.E. (1994) The
Plant J. 6, 749-758
- Hood, E.E., Gelvin, S.B., Melchers, L.S. Hoekama, A. (1993)
Transgenic Research 2, 208-218
- Imhoff, J.F. & Trüper, H.G. (1997) Arch. Microbiol. 114:115-
121
- Ishitani, M., Arakawa, K., Mizuno, K., Kishitani, S., Takabe,
T (1993) Plant Cell Physiol., 34, 493-495
- Ito et al. (1983) Bacteriol. 153, 163-170
- JP patent 8-103267
- JP patent 8-266179
- JP patent 87,190,078 (Kojima, Y., Aisui, S., Ando, M. (1987)

Kapper, R., Kempf, B., Bremer, E., (1996) J. Bacteriol. 178, 5071-5079

Kempf, V., Bremer, E. (1995) J. Biol. Chem. 270, 16701-16713

Kishitani, S., Watanabe, K., Yasuda, S. Arakawa, K., Takabe, T. (1994) Plant, Cell and Environm. 17, 89-95

Kerovuo, J., Lauraeus, M., Nurminen, P., Kalkkinen, N, Apajalahti, J. (1998) Appl. Environm. Microbiol. 64, 2079-2085

Kuipers, O.P., de Ruyter G.G.A., Kleerebezem, M., de Vos, W. (1997) Tibtech 15, 135-140

Laemmli, U.K. (1970) Nature 227:680-685

Lamark, T., Kaasen I., Eshoo, M.W., Falkenberg, P., McDoygall, J., Ström, A.R. (1991) Mol. Microbiol. 5, 1049-1064

Larsen, P.I., Sydne, L.K., Landfald, B. & Ström, A.R. (1987) Arch. Microbiol. 147:1-7

Lilius, G., Holmberg, N., Bulow, L. (1996) Biotechnology 14, 177-180

Markham, G.D., DeParasis, J and Gatmantan, J. (1984) J. Biol. Chem. 259, 14505-14507

McGue, K.F., Hanson A.D. (1990) Tibtech 8, 358-363

McGue, K., Hanson, A. (1992) Plant Mol. Biol. 18, 1-11

Murashige, T. and Skoog, F. (1962) Physiol. Plant 15, 473-497

Mäkelä, P., Mantila, J., Hinkkanen R., Pehu, E., Peltonen-Sainio, P. (1996) J. Agronomy and Crop Science 176, 223-234

Nagasawa, T., Mori, N., Tani, Y., Ogata, K. (1976) *Agr. Biol. Chem.* 40, 1743-1749

Nakamura, T., Yokota, S., Moramoto, Y., Tsutsui, K., Ogura, Y., Fukui, K., Takabe, T. (1997) *Plant J.* 11, 1115-1120

Nomura, M., Ishitani, M., Takabe, T., Rai, A.K., Takabe, T. (1995) *Plant Physiol.* 107, 703-708

Nomura, M., Muramoto, Y., Yasuda, S., Takabe, T., Kishitani, S. (1995) *Ueophytica* 83, 247-250

Ohira et al. (1973) *Plant Cellk Physiol.* 14, 113-121

Papagiorgiou, G.C., Murata, N. (1995) *Photosynt. Res.* 44, 243-252

Perroud, B., Rudulier, D. (1985) *J. Bacteriol.* 161, 393-401

Peter, H., Burkovski, A., Krämer, R. (1996) *J. Bacteriol.* 178, 5229-5234

Pocard, J-A., Vincent, N., Boncompagni, E., Tombras Smith L., Poggi, M-C., LeRudulier, D. (1997) *Microbiology* 143, 1369-1379

Rathinasabapathi, B. et al., (1997) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 94, 3454-3458

Rhodes, D. and Hanson, A.D. (1993) *Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol. Plant Mol. Biol.* 44, 357-384

Roberts, M.F., Lai, M-C., Gunsalus, R.P. (1992) *J. Bacteriol.* 174, 6688-6693

Rogers S.G. and Fraley, R.T. (1986) *Methods in Enzymol* 118, 627-684

Rozwadowski, K., Kchachatourians, G.G., Slvaraj, G. (1991) J. Bacteriol. 173, 472-478

Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E.F., Maniatis, T. (1989) Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual. Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA

Sarvas, M. (1994) in Gene Expression in recombinant Bacillus In Gene Expression in Recombinant Plants, pp. 53-120. Ed. A. Smith, Marcel Dekker, New York

Saunderson, C.L. and MacKinlay, J. (1990) Brit. J. Nutr. 63, 339-349

Sehgal, S.N. and Gibbons, N.E. (1960) Can. J. Microbiol. 10:165-169

Severin, J., Wohlfarth, A., Galinski, E.A. (1992) J. Gen. Microbiol. 138, 1629-1638

Smirnova, G. and Oktyabrsky, O. (1995) Arch. Microbiol 163, 76-78

Tani, Y., Mori, N., Ogata, K., Yamada, H. (1979) Agrig. Biol. Chem. 43, 815-820

Tschichholz, I. and Trüper, H.G., (1990) FEMS Microbiol. Ecol. 73:181-186

Tschichholz-Mikus, I. (1994) PhD Thesis, Rheinischen Friedrich-Weilhelms-Universität, Bonn

US Patent 4,245,050 (Nakanisch t., Machida, Y. (1981))

Vain et al. (1993) Plant Cell Rep. 12, 84-88

- Van Larabece, N., Engler, G. Holsters, M., Van den Elsacer, S., Zaenen, I., Schilperoot, R.A., Schell, J. (1974) *Nature* 252, 169-170
- Weretilnyk, E., Hanson A. (1990) *Proc. Natl., Acad. Sci USA* 87, 2745-2749
- Weretilnyk, E. Hanson, A. (1989) *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.* 271, 56-63
- Wu, Y., Jenkins, T., Blunden, G., Whapam, C., Hankins, S.D. (1997) *Fundam. Appl. Nematol.* 20, 99-102
- Wyn Jones, R.g., Stirey, r., Leigh, R.A., Ahmad, N., Pollard, A. (1997) A hypothesis on cytoplasmic osmoregulation. In *Regulation of cell membrane activities in higher plants*, Eds. E. Marre and O. Ciferri, pp. 121-136. Amsterdam: Elsevier/North Holland
- Xin, W.B., Rajashekar, C.B., Zhou, H. (1996) *Plant physiol.* VIII.N2, P230
- Yancey, P.H., Clark, M.E., Hand, S.C., Bowlus, R.d., Somero, G.N. (1982) *Science* 217, 1214-1222
- Yocum, R.R, Perkins, J.B., Howitt, C.L. and Pero, J. (1996) *J. Bacteriol.* 178, 4604-4610
- Zagursky, R.J., Berman, L.M., Baumeister, K., Lomax, N. (1986) *Gene Anal. Techn.* 2, 89-94
- Zambryski, P., Joons, H., Genetello, C., Leemans, J. Van Montagu, M., Schell, J. (1983) *EMBO J.* 12, 2143-2150

What is claim d:

1. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
2. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5.
4. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.
5. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

6. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.
7. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.
8. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1.
9. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5.
10. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a methyltransferase capable of catalyzing at least one of the reactions glycine to sarcosine, sarcosine to dimethyl glycine and dimethyl glycine to betaine.
11. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

12. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 11 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1.
13. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 11 which comprises the DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5.
14. A methyltransferase encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b),
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
15. A methyltransferase according to claim 14 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1.
16. A methyltransferase according to claim 14 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5.
17. A methyltransferase according to claim 14 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.

18. A methyltransferase according to claim 14 encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.
19. A methyltransferase comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2, an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:3, an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:6, an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:7,
 - (b) a fragment of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and
 - (c) a derivative of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and (b).
20. A methyltransferase according to claim 19 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2.
21. A methyltransferase according to claim 19 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:3.
22. A methyltransferase according to claim 19 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:6.
23. A methyltransferase according to claim 19 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:7.
24. A methyltransferase according to claim 19 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the N-terminus of SEQ ID NO:3 is covalently joined to the C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2.
25. A methyltransferase capable of catalyzing at least one of the reactions glycine to sarcosine, sarcosine to dimethyl glycine and dimethyl glycine to betaine.

26. A S-adenosyl methionine synthase encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b),
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
27. A S-adenosyl methionine synthase encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the DNA sequence from nucleotide 2027 to 2722 of SEQ ID NO:1.
28. A S-adenosyl methionine synthase encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the DNA sequence from nucleotide 2006 to 3004 of SEQ ID NO:5.
29. A S-adenosyl methionine synthase comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:4
or
an amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:8,
 - (b) a fragment of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and
 - (c) a derivative of an amino acid sequence as defined in (a) and (b).
30. A S-adenosyl methionine synthase according to claim 26 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:4.

31. A S-adenosyl methionine synthase according to claim 26 having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:8.
32. An expression vector comprising at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
33. An expression vector according to claim 32 comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1.
34. An expression vector according to claim 32 comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5.
35. An expression vector according to claim 32 comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.

36. An expression vector according to claim 32 comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.
37. An expression vector according to claim 32 comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.
38. An expression vector according to claim 32 comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.
39. An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
40. A recombinant organism transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
41. A recombinant organism according to claim 40 which is transformed with an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1.
42. A recombinant organism according to claim 40 which is transformed with an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5.
43. A recombinant organism according to claim 40 which is transformed with an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.
44. A recombinant organism according to claim 40 which is transformed with an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.
45. A recombinant organism according to claim 40 which is transformed with an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1.

46. A recombinant organism according to claim 40 which is transformed with an expression vector comprising the DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

47. A recombinant organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

48. A recombinant organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
49. A recombinant organism according to claim 40, wherein the organism is a bacteria.
50. A recombinant organism according to claim 49, wherein the bacteria is selected from the group consisting of E. coli, Bacillus, Corynebacteria, Pseudomonas lactic acid bacteria and Streptomyces.
51. A recombinant organism according to claim 40, wherein the organism is a yeast.
52. A recombinant organism according to claim 51, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of Saccharomyces, Zygosaccharomyces, Pichia, Kluyveromyces, Candida and Hansenula.
53. A recombinant organism according to claim 40, wherein the organism is a fungus.
54. A recombinant organism according to claim 53, wherein the fungus is selected from the group consisting of Aspergillus, Trichoderma and Penicillium.
55. A recombinant organism according to claim 40, wherein the organism is a plant selected from the

group comprising cereals, legumes, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, ornamentals and perennial trees.

56. A recombinant organism according to claim 55, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of lettuces, Capsicums, grasses, clovers, alfalfa, beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, taro, groundnut, brassica, sugar beet, grapes, potato, tomato, rice, tobacco, rapeseed, maize, sorghum, cotton, soybean, barley, wheat, rye, canola, sunflower, linseed, pea, cucumber, carrot, ornamentals, perennial trees and fruits.
57. A recombinant organism according to claim 47, wherein the organism is a bacteria.
58. A recombinant organism according to claim 57, wherein the bacteria is selected from the group consisting of E. coli, Bacillus, Corynebacteria, Pseudomonas lactic acid bacteria and Streptomyces.
59. A recombinant organism according to claim 47, wherein the organism is a yeast.
60. A recombinant organism according to claim 59, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of Saccharomyces, Zygosaccharomyces, Pichia, Kluyveromyces, Candida and Hansenula.
61. A recombinant organism according to claim 47, wherein the organism is a fungus.
62. A recombinant organism according to claim 61, wherein the fungus is selected from the group consisting of Aspergillus, Trichoderma and Penicillium.

63. A recombinant organism according to claim 47, wherein the organism is a plant selected from the group comprising cereals, legumes, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, ornamentals and perennial trees.
64. A recombinant organism according to claim 63, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of lettuces, Capsicums, grasses, clovers, alfalfa, beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, taro, groundnut, brassica, sugar beet, grapes, potato, tomato, rice, tobacco, rapeseed, maize, sorghum, cotton, soybean, barley, wheat, rye, canola, sunflower, linseed, pea, cucumber, carrot, ornamentals, perennial trees and fruits.
65. A recombinant organism according to claim 48, wherein the organism is a bacteria.
66. A recombinant organism according to claim 66, wherein the bacteria is selected from the group consisting of E. coli, Bacillus, Corynebacteria, Pseudomonas lactic acid bacteria and Streptomyces.
67. A recombinant organism according to claim 48, wherein the organism is a yeast.
68. A recombinant organism according to claim 67, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of Saccharomyces, Zygosaccharomyces, Pichia, Kluyveromyces, Candida and Hansenula.
69. A recombinant organism according to claim 48, wherein the organism is a fungus.
70. A recombinant organism according to claim 69, wherein the fungus is selected from the group

consisting of *Aspergillus*, *Trichoderma* and *Penicillium*.

71. A recombinant organism according to claim 48, wherein the organism is a plant selected from the group comprising cereals, legumes, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, ornamentals and perennial trees.
72. A recombinant organism according to claim 71, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of lettuces, Capsicums, grasses, clovers, alfalfa, beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, taro, groundnut, brassica, sugar beet, grapes, potato, tomato, rice, tobacco, rapeseed, maize, sorghum, cotton, soybean, barley, wheat, rye, canola, sunflower, linseed, pea, cucumber, carrot, ornamentals, perennial trees and fruits.
73. A method for the production of a recombinant organism comprising the steps of transforming a host organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

74. A method for the production of a recombinant organism comprising the steps of transforming a host organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

75. A method for the production of a recombinant organism comprising the steps of transforming a host organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c)
76. A methyltransferase obtainable by culturing an organism transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c)
- and isolating the methyltransferase from said organism or the medium used to culture said organism.

77. A method for the production of a methyltransferase comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),
and isolating the methyltransferase from said organism or the medium used to culture said organism.

78. A method for the production of sarcosine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), and isolating dimethyl glycine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.
79. A method for the production of sarcosine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), and isolating sarcosine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.
80. A method for the production of sarcosine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least

one a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),
and isolating sarcosine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

81. A method for the production of dimethyl glycine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),

and isolating dimethyl glycine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

82. A method for the production of dimethyl glycine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),
- and isolating dimethyl glycine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.
83. A method for the production of dimethyl glycine comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),
and isolating dimethyl glycine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

84. A method for the production of betaine, comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), and isolating betaine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

85. A method for the production of betaine, comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), and isolating betaine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

86. A method for the production of betaine, comprising the steps of culturing an organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c),
and isolating betaine from said organism or the medium used to culture or process said organism.

87. A method for increasing the intracellular concentration of sarcosine, dimethyl glycine or betaine in an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide

sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

88. A method for increasing the intracellular concentration of sarcosine, dimethyl glycine or betaine in an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
89. A method for increasing the intracellular concentration of sarcosine, dimethyl glycine or betaine in an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
90. A method for enhancing the salt tolerance of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.
91. A method for enhancing the salt tolerance of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an

organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

92. A method for enhancing the salt tolerance of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

93. A method for enhancing the freezing or cold tolerance of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

94. A method for enhancing the freezing or cold tolerance of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

95. A method for enhancing the freezing or cold tolerance of an organism comprising the steps transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

96. A method for enhancing the resistance of an organism to drought or water stress comprising the steps of transforming an organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

97. A method for enhancing the resistance of an organism to drought or water stress comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

98. A method for enhancing the resistance of an organism to drought or water stress comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

99. A method for enhancing the productivity or yield of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

100. A method for enhancing the productivity or yield of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

101. A method for enhancing the productivity or yield of an organism comprising the steps of transforming an organism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

102. A method for inducing pathogenesis-related proteins in a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

103. A method for inducing pathogenesis-related proteins in a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and

- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

104. A method for inducing pathogenesis-related proteins in a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

105. A method for increasing the resistance of a plant to attack by pathogens comprising the steps of transforming a plant with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.
106. A method for increasing the resistance of a plant to attack by pathogens comprising the steps of transforming a plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

107. A method for increasing the resistance of a plant to attack by pathogens comprising the steps of transforming a plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

108. A method for improving the nutritional value of a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

109. A method for improving the nutritional value of a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

110. A method for improving the nutritional value of a plant comprising the steps of transforming a plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and

at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

111. A method for enhancing the pH tolerance of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide

sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

112. A method for enhancing the pH tolerance of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
113. A method for enhancing the pH tolerance of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
114. A method for improving the viability of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming an microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecule(s) is expressed.

115. A method for improving the viability of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming

a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

116. A method for improving the viability of a cultured microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

117. A method for decreasing inclusion body formation in a microorganism expressing a heterologous protein comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecules are expressed.

118. A method for decreasing inclusion body formation in a microorganism expressing a heterologous protein comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and

transforming said microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

119. A method for decreasing inclusion body formation in a microorganism expressing a heterologous protein comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
120. A method for increasing the stability of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
(c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
(d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecules are expressed.

121. A method for increasing the stability of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
122. A method for increasing the stability of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

123. A method for increasing the production of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide

sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c), such that the nucleic acid molecules are expressed.

124. A method for increasing the production of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

125. A method for increasing the production of a heterologous protein expressed in a microorganism comprising the steps of transforming a microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule capable of expressing a heterologous protein and transforming said microorganism with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of

intracellular glycine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

126. An animal feed comprising a recombinant organism transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

127. An animal feed comprising a recombinant organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
128. An animal feed comprising a recombinant organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular glycine and at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),

- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

129. An animal feed ingredient comprising a recombinant organism transformed with at least one nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
- (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

130. An animal feed ingredient comprising a recombinant organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,

- a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).
131. An animal feed ingredient comprising a recombinant organism transformed with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for an enzyme capable of increasing the amount of intracellular S-adenosyl methionine and at least nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any of the sequences as defined in (a),
 - (c) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) and (b), and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to any of the nucleotide sequences defined in (a), (b) and (c).

132. A DNA probe for use in identifying and cloning a nucleic acid molecule encoding a methyltransferase

comprising at least 15 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

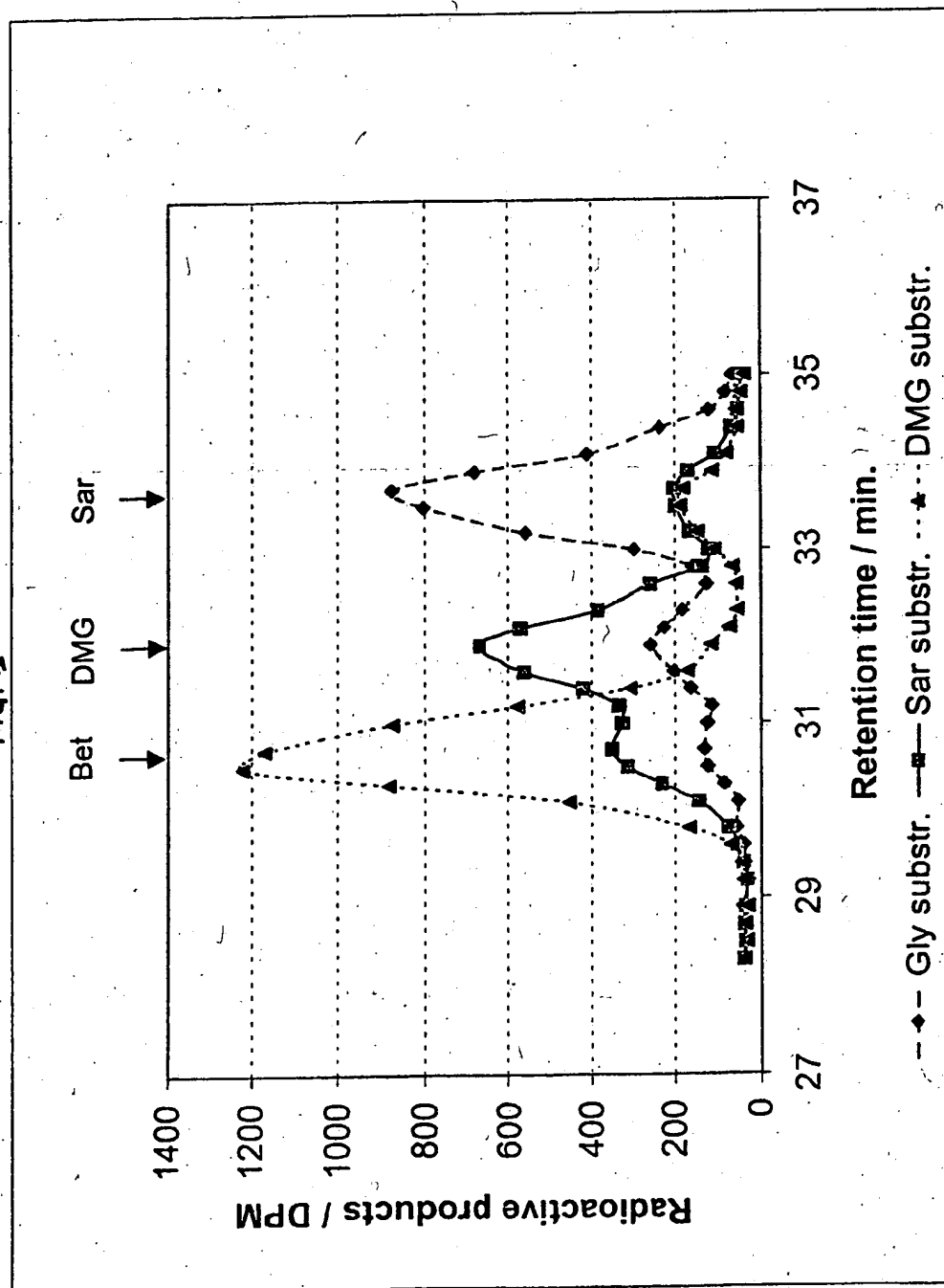
- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5.

133. A method for identifying and cloning a nucleic acid molecule encoding a methyltransferase comprising the steps of hybridizing a probe consisting of at least 15 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA sequence from nucleotide 208 to 1047 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 221 to 1024 of SEQ ID NO:5,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1048 to 1902 of SEQ ID NO:1,
a DNA sequence from nucleotide 1031 to 1867 of SEQ ID NO:5,
with a sample containing nucleic acid of an organism, detecting a nucleic acid molecule in said sample which hybridizes to said probe and isolating said detected nucleic acid molecule.

134. A method for the purification of a methyltransferase capable of catalyzing the conversion of glycine to dimethyl glycine comprising the steps of subjecting a sample comprising the methyltransferase to a matrix containing adenosine, binding said methyltransferase to said matrix and eluting said methyltransferase from said matrix.

Fig. 1



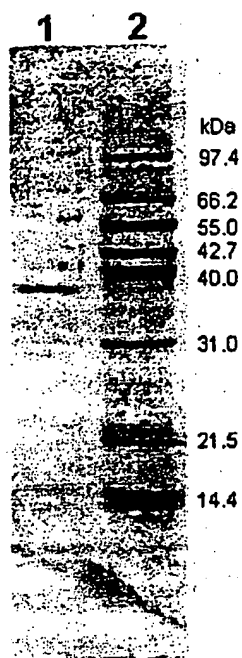


Fig. 2A

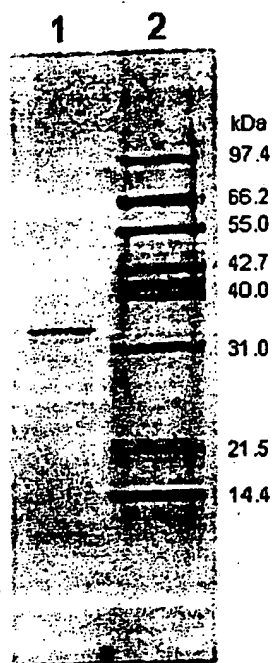


Fig. 2B

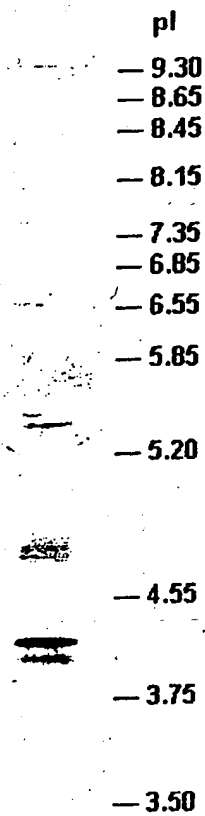


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

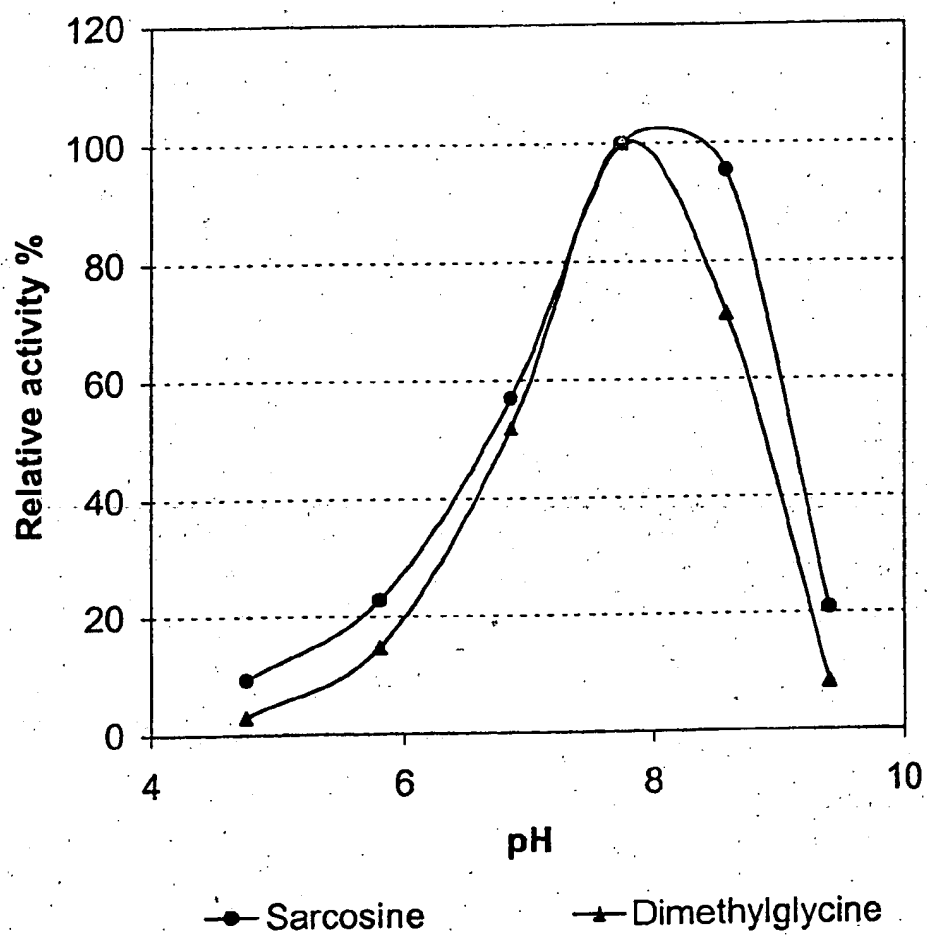


Fig. 5

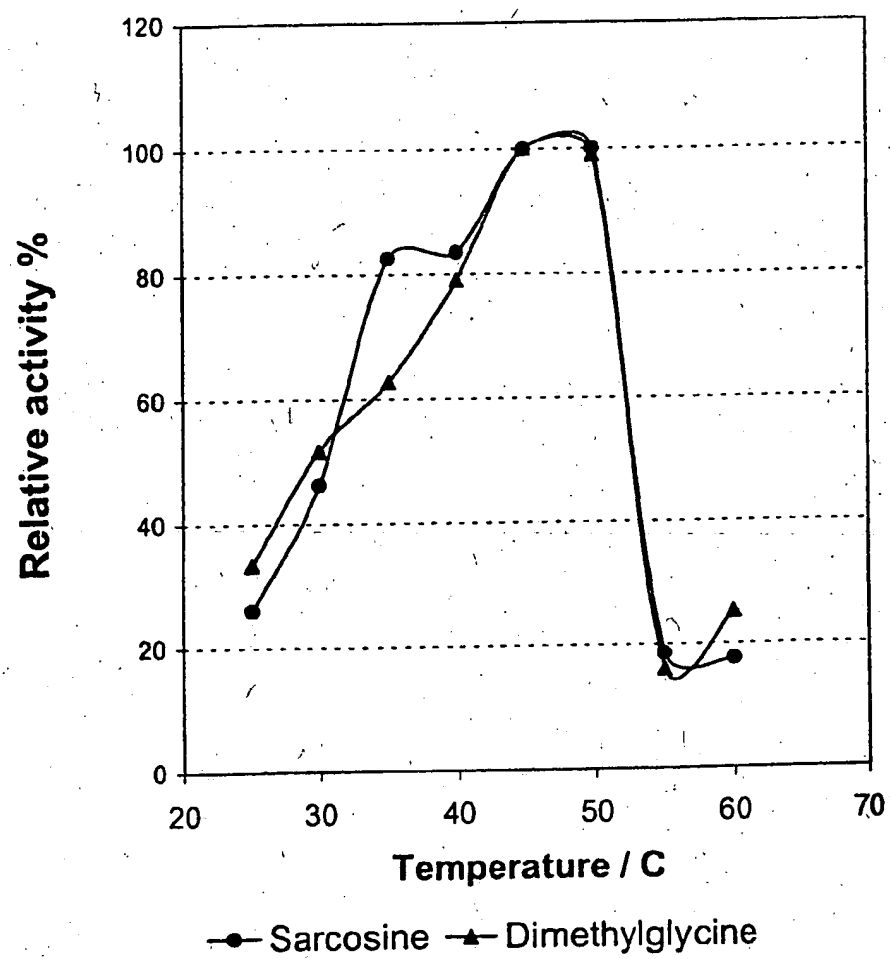


Fig. 6

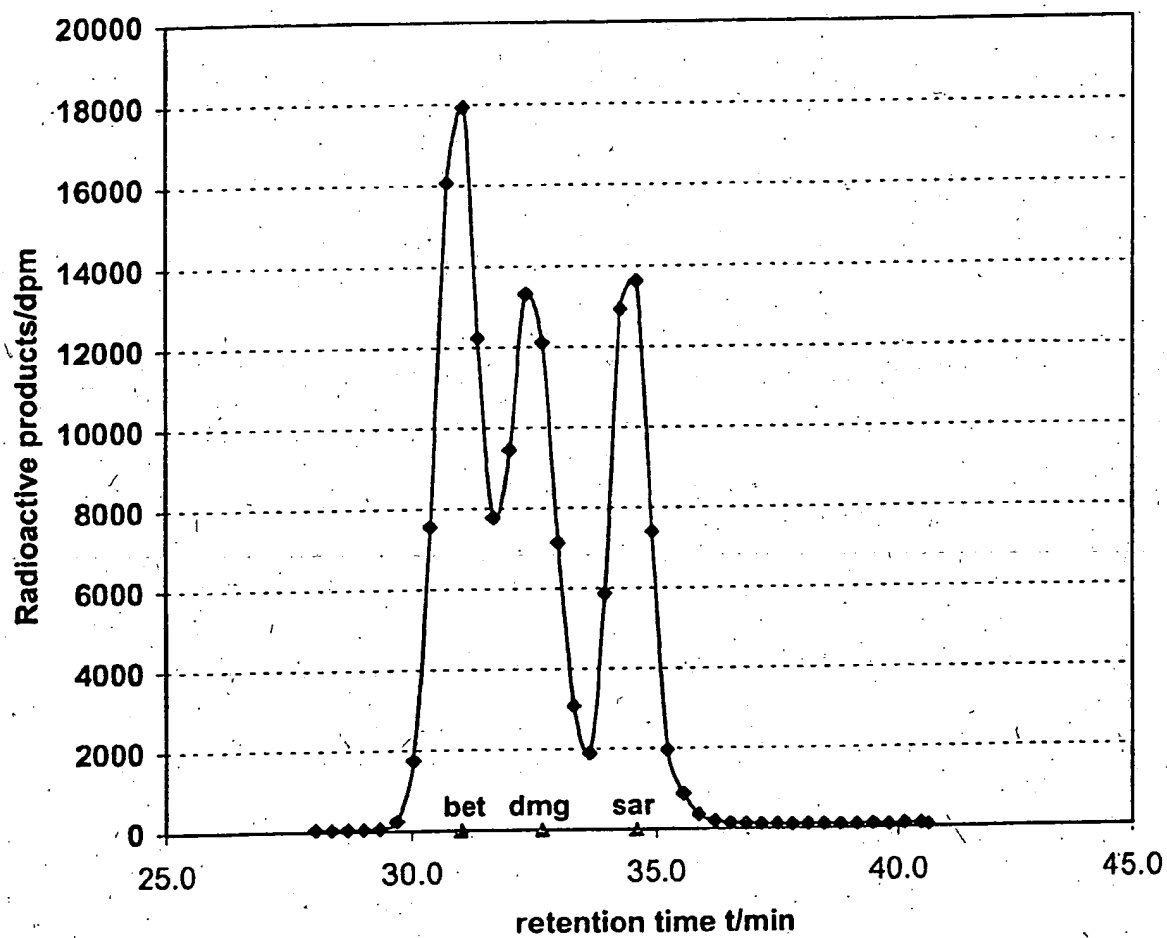


Fig. 7

Actinopolyspora halophila
betaine operon



Ectothiorhodospira halochloris
betaine operon



Figure 8

GCAGGCTCGG TGCCACCAAT ACAGGGCAGC CCCCTGGCCA GAAACACGCC CCGTAGTTAC																		60
GGAGGGCGCAT GCCATAGATA ATGAAC TTGC TACAAGAGGC ACTTGACATT CAGTTGTCCA																		120
AGCGGCGCCG GCGATCAAGC ACACGATCTG AATTCACAGC GTATGGGTAT ACCGTAGCGC																		180
GCGTTCGCTA CACCAACCAT TCGCCAAGCT GAGGTGATAT																		235
<div><div>primer 1.</div><div>ATG AAT ACG ACT ACT</div><div>Met Asn Thr Thr Thr</div><div>1 5</div><div>GSMT</div></div>																		
GAG CAG GAC TTC GGA GCG GAC CCA ACA AAA GTC CGA GAT ACC GAC CAC																		283
Glu Gln Asp Phe Gly Ala Asp Pro Thr Lys Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His																		
10 15 20																		
TAC ACG GAA GAG TAT GTT GAC GGG TTT GTC GAC AAA TGG GAC GAC TTG																		331
Tyr Thr Glu Glu Tyr Val Asp Gly Phe Val Asp Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu																		
25 30 35																		
ATT GAT TGG GAT AGC CGC GCG AAG AGT GAA GGT GAT TTC TTT ATT CAA																		379
Ile Asp Trp Asp Ser Arg Ala Lys Ser Glu Gly Asp Phe Phe Ile Gln																		
40 45 50																		
GAG TTG AAG AAG CGT GGT GCC ACA CGC ATC CTC GAT GCC GCA ACA GGT																		427
Glu Leu Lys Lys/ Arg Gly Ala Thr Arg Ile Leu Asp Ala Ala Thr Gly																		
55 60 65																		
ACC GGC TTC CAC TCA GTG CGT TTG CTC GAG GCG GGT TTT GAT GTC GTC																		475
Thr Gly Phe His Ser Val Arg Leu Leu Glu Ala Gly Phe Asp Val Val																		
70 75 80 85																		
AGT GCT GAT GGC AGT GCC GAG ATG CTC GCC AAA GCC TTC GAG AAT GGG																		523
Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Ala Glu Met Leu Ala Lys Ala Phe Glu Asn Gly																		
90 95 100																		
CGT AAG CGT GGC CAT ATC CTA CGC ACG GTT CAG GTC GAC TGG CGG TGG																		571
Arg Lys Arg Gly His Ile Leu Arg Thr Val Gln Val Asp Trp Arg Trp																		
105 110 115																		
CTG AAT CGC GAT ATC CAC GGT CGT TAT GAC GCC ATT ATC TGC CTT GGC																		619
Leu Asn Arg Asp Ile His Gly Arg Tyr Asp Ala Ile Ile Cys Leu Gly																		
120 125 130																		
AAC TCG TTT ACC CAC CTG TTT AAT GAA AAA GAT CGG CGC AAG ACC CTG																		667
Asn Ser Phe Thr His Leu Phe Asn Glu Lys Asp Arg Arg Lys Thr Leu																		
135 140 145																		
GCA GAG TTC TAT TCC GCG CTG AAC CCG GAA GGG GTG CTG ATA TTG GAT																		715
Ala Glu Phe Tyr Ser Ala Leu Asn Pro Glu Gly Val Leu Ile Leu Asp																		
150 155 160 165																		
CAG CGC AAT TAC GAC GGC ATC CTC GAT CAC GGC TAT GAC TCA AGC CAC																		763
Gln Arg Asn Tyr Asp Gly Ile Leu Asp His Gly Tyr Asp Ser Ser His																		
170 175 180																		
TCC TAC TAC TAT TGC GGT GAG GGC GTC TCT GTC TAT CCT GAG CAC GTT																		811
Ser Tyr Tyr Tyr Cys Gly Glu Gly Val Ser Val Tyr Pro Glu His Val																		
185 190 195																		
GAT GAT GGC CTA GCC CGC TTC AAG TAT GAA TTC AAC GAC GGT TCA ACT																		859
Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Arg Phe Lys Tyr Glu Phe Asn Asp Gly Ser Thr																		
200 205 210																		

TAC	TTC	CTG	AAC	ATG	TTC	CCG	CTG	CGC	AAG	GAT	TAC	ACG	CGC	CGC	CTA	907
Tyr	Phe	Leu	Asn	Met	Phe	Pro	Leu	Arg	Lys	Asp	Tyr	Thr	Arg	Arg	Leu	
215						220					225					
ATG	CAT	GAG	GTG	GGT	TTC	CAA	AAA	ATC	GAT	ACC	TAC	GGC	GAC	TTC	AAG	955
Met	His	Glu	Val	Gly	Phe	Gln	Lys	Ile	Asp	Thr	Tyr	Gly	Asp	Phe	Lys	
230					235				240						245	
GCA	ACC	TAC	CGC	GAT	GCA	GAT	CCG	GAT	TTC	TTT	ATT	CAT	GTC	GCC	GAG	1003
Ala	Thr	Tyr	Arg	Asp	Ala	Asp	Pro	Asp	Phe	Phe	Ile	His	Val	Ala	Glu	
				250					255					260		
<div> <div>primer 2</div> <div>primer 3</div> </div>																
AAG	GAA	TAT	CGG	GAG	GAG	GAC	TGATAT	ATG	GCG	ACG	CGC	TAC	GAC	GAT		1051
Lys	Glu	Tyr	Arg	Glu	Glu	Asp	*	Met	Ala	Thr	Arg	Tyr	Asp	Asp		
			265					1				5				
<div> <div>GSMT ←</div> <div>→ SDMT</div> </div>																
CAA	GCC	ATA	GAA	ACG	GCG	AGG	CAG	TAC	TAT	AAC	AGT	GAG	GAT	GCC	GAT	1099
Gln	Ala	Ile	Glu	Thr	Ala	Arg	Gln	Tyr	Tyr	Asn	Ser	Glu	Asp	Ala	Asp	
	10						15					20				
AAC	TTC	TAC	GCC	ATA	ATA	TGG	GGT	GGT	GAG	GAT	ATC	CAT	ATC	GGT	TTG	1147
Asn	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Ile	Ile	Trp	Gly	Gly	Glu	Asp	Ile	His	Ile	Gly	Leu	
	25					30					35					
TAC	AAC	GAT	GAT	GAA	GAG	CCG	ATA	GCA	GAT	GCC	AGC	AGG	CGT	ACT	GTA	1195
Tyr	Asn	Asp	Asp	Glu	Glu	Pro	Ile	Ala	Asp	Ala	Ser	Arg	Arg	Thr	Val	
40					45				50						55	
GAG	CGC	ATG	TCG	TCA	CTG	TCC	CGG	CAG	CTT	GGC	CCA	GAT	AGC	TAT	GTC	1243
Glu	Arg	Met	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ser	Arg	Gln	Leu	Gly	Pro	Asp	Ser	Tyr	Val	
				60					65					70		
CTC	GAC	ATG	GGG	GCT	GGT	TAC	GGA	GGG	TCT	GCC	CGT	TAC	CTT	GCG	CAT	1291
Leu	Asp	Met	Gly	Ala	Gly	Tyr	Gly	Gly	Ser	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Leu	Ala	His	
			75					80					85			
AAG	TAT	GGC	TGT	AAG	GTG	GCG	GCG	CTC	AAT	CTC	TCC	GAA	CGT	GAG	AAT	1339
Lys	Tyr	Gly	Cys	Lys	Val	Ala	Ala	Leu	Asn	Leu	Ser	Glu	Arg	Glu	Asn	
	90						95					100				
GAG	CGT	GAT	CGG	CAG	ATG	AAT	AAG	GAG	CAA	GGA	GTC	GAT	CAC	CTG	ATT	1387
Glu	Arg	Asp	Arg	Gln	Met	Asn	Lys	Glu	Gln	Gly	Val	Asp	His	Leu	Ile	
	105					110					115					
GAG	GTT	GTC	GAT	GCT	GCC	TTT	GAA	GAT	GTC	CCC	TAT	GAT	GAT	GGG	GTG	1435
Glu	Val	Val	Asp	Ala	Ala	Phe	Glu	Asp	Val	Pro	Tyr	Asp	Asp	Gly	Val	
120					125					130					135	
TTT	GAC	CTG	GTC	TGG	TCG	CAG	GAC	TCC	TTC	CTC	CAT	AGT	CCG	GAT	AGG	1483
Phe	Asp	Leu	Val	Trp	Ser	Gln	Asp	Ser	Phe	Leu	His	Ser	Pro	Asp	Arg	
				140					145					150		
GAA	CGC	GTA	CTG	CGG	GAG	GCT	AGT	AGA	GTT	CTG	CGT	TCT	GGG	GCG	GAG	1531
Glu	Arg	Val	Leu	Arg	Glu	Ala	Ser	Arg	Val	Leu	Arg	Ser	Gly	Gly	Glu	
			155					160					165			
TTT	ATC	TTC	ACC	GAT	CCA	ATG	CAG	GCG	GAT	GAT	TGC	CCC	GAG	GGG	GTT	1579
Phe	Ile	Phe	Thr	Asp	Pro	Met	Gln	Ala	Asp	Asp	Cys	Pro	Glu	Gly	Val	
	170						175					180				
ATT	CAA	CCG	ATC	CTC	GAT	AGG	ATC	CAC	CTC	GAG	ACG	ATG	GGC	ACG	CCT	1627
Ile	Gln	Pro	Ile	Leu	Asp	Arg	Ile	His	Leu	Glu	Thr	Met	Gly	Thr	Pro	
185						190						195				

AAT TTC TAT CGC CAG ACC CTT AGG GAT CTG GGC TTT GAG GAA ATC ACC Asn Phe Tyr Arg Gln Thr Leu Arg Asp Leu Gly Phe Glu Glu Ile Thr 200 205 210 215	1675
TTC GAA GAC CAC ACC CAT CAG TTG CCG CGC CAT TAC GGG CGC GTG CGC Phe Glu Asp His Thr His Gln Leu Pro Arg His Tyr Gly Arg Val Arg 220 225 230	1723
CGT GAG CTA GAT CGT CGA GAA GGT GAA CTG CAG GGG CAT GTC TCG GCA Arg Glu Leu Asp Arg Arg Glu Gly Glu Leu Gln Gly His Val Ser Ala 235 240 245	1771
GAG TAC ATC GAA CGC ATG AAA AAT GGC CTT GAC CAC TGG GTC AAT GGC Glu Tyr Ile Glu Arg Met Lys Asn Gly Leu Asp His Trp Val Asn Gly 250 255 260	1819
GGT AAC AAG GGT TAT CTC ACC TGG GGT ATC TTT TAC TTC CGC AAA GGC Gly Asn Lys Gly Tyr Leu Thr Trp Gly Ile Phe Tyr Phe Arg Lys Gly 265 270 275	1867
primer 4	
SDMT ←	
TGATCACTAG AGCGCTAAAT CGCAGGCGCG GTAATTGTGC CGCGCTTCGG GCGCATATGT *	1927
TTTAGCCCGAG TGGATTTGCA CATAGAAAAG AGTGAATTCT GGTTTAGCGC TCGAATAAAC	1987
TATAGCAAAG GAGAAACT ATG ACT AAG CGA TAT CTA TTT ACC TCT GAG TCG Met Thr Lys Arg Tyr Leu Phe Thr Ser Glu Ser 1 5 10	2038
SAMS	
GTC TCT GAA GGC CAC CCG GAC AAA ATG GCC GAC CAG ATT TCG GAT GCA Val Ser Glu Gly His Pro Asp Lys Met Ala Asp Gln Ile Ser Asp Ala 15 20 25	2086
CTG CTC GAT GAG TTC CTG CGC CAG GAT CCA AAG TCG CGG GTG GCT GCA Leu Leu Asp Glu Phe Leu Arg Gln Asp Pro Lys Ser Arg Val Ala Ala 30 35 40	2134
GAG ACG ATG ATT CAG ACC GGC ATG GTT GTA GTT GCC GGC GAA ATT AAG Glu Thr Met Ile Gln Thr Gly Met Val Val Val Ala Gly Glu Ile Lys 45 50 55	2182
AGC AAT GCC AAG ATC AAT GTT GAG CCG CTG GTA CGT GAA GTT GTC CGC Ser Asn Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Glu Val Val Arg 60 65 70 75	2230
GAT ATC GGC TAC ACC AGC TCA GAT ATG GGC TTT GAT GCC GAC ACC TGT Asp Ile Gly Tyr Thr Ser Ser Asp Met Gly Phe Asp Ala Asp Thr Cys 80 85 90	2276
GCC GTA CTC AAC GCC CTC GGC GAG CAG TCC CCC GAC ATC AAT CAA GGC Ala Val Leu Asn Ala Leu Gly Glu Gln Ser Pro Asp Ile Asn Gln Gly 95 100 105	2326
GTT GAC CGG GAA GAG GAA GAG GAG CAG GGC GCC GGT GAC CAA GGA CTG Val Asp Arg Glu Glu Glu Glu Glu Gln Gly Ala Gly Asp Gln Gly Leu 110 115 120	2374
ATG TTC GGT TAC GCC ACC AAT GAG ACC GAC GTC CTC ATG CCG GCA GCG Met Phe Gly Tyr Ala Thr Asn Glu Thr Asp Val Leu Met Pro Ala Ala 125 130 135	2422
ATC CAC TAC TCG CAC CTG CTG GTT AAG CGC CAA TCC GAA GTC CGT AAC Ile His Tyr Ser His Leu Leu Val Lys Arg Gln Ser Glu Val Arg Asn 140 145 150 155	2470

Figure 9

AATCTGCGCC GGGATCGGAC GGCAAAGGTG CCGACCGAGT GTGCTGATCG ATGCCAGCGC	60
GCGGCCCGCT AGTTCGGCTG CCCGCATCGG TCCGGCGTGC CCCTTGTGTG AGGTGACCCG	120
GCGCGCCCGT GAAAGCTCGG GGCGGCGTAA TTCGCCGTGG TTCCGAGCGA TGCAGTGGCG	180
primer 7	
CTTGACCAAC GCGAGTGGGA GCTGAGT <u>ATG ACC AAG AGC GTG GAC GAT CTT</u>	231
Met Thr Lys Ser Val Asp Asp Leu	
1 5	
→ GSMT	
GCC CGT GGT GAC CAG GCC GGG GAC GAG CAG GAC CCG GTG CAC CGC GAG	279
Ala Arg Gly Asp Gln Ala Gly Asp Glu Gln Asp Pro Val His Arg Glu	
10 15 20	
CAG CAG ACG TTC GGC GAC AAT CCG TTG GAA GTA CGC GAC ACT GAT CAC	327
Gln Gln Thr Phe Gly Asp Asn Pro Leu Glu Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His	
25 30 35 40	
TAC ATG CAT GAG TAC GTC GGT GGT TTT GTC GAC AAG TGG GAC GAT CTG	375
Tyr Met His Glu Tyr Val Gly Gly Phe Val Asp Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu	
45 50 55	
ATC GAT TGG AAG AAG CGC TAC GAA AGC GAG GGC AGC TTC TTC ATC GAC	423
Ile Asp Trp Lys Lys Arg Tyr Glu Ser Glu Gly Ser Phe Phe Ile Asp	
60 65 70	
CAA TTG CGC GCA CGC GGT GTC GAG ACC GTG CTG GAC GCG GCG GCC GGG	471
Gln Leu Arg Ala Arg Gly Val Glu Thr Val Leu Asp Ala Ala Ala Gly	
75 80 85	
ACC GGT TTC CAC TCG GTC CGG TTG CTC GAG GAG GGG TTT GAG ACC GTC	519
Thr Gly Phe His Ser Val Arg Leu Leu Glu Glu Gly Phe Glu Thr Val	
90 95 100	
AGC GCG GAC GGC AGC CCG CAG ATG CTG GCC AAG GCC TTC AGT AAC GGA	567
Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Pro Gln Met Leu Ala Lys Ala Phe Ser Asn Gly	
105 110 115 120	
CTG GCC TAC AAC GGT CAC ATT CTG CGT GTG GTC AAC GCG GAC TGG CGT	615
Leu Ala Tyr Asn Gly His Ile Leu Arg Val Val Asn Ala Asp Trp Arg	
125 130 135	
TGG CTC AAC CGT GAC GTG CAC GGT GAA TAC GAC GCG ATC ATT TGC CTG	663
Trp Leu Asn Arg Asp Val His Gly Glu Tyr Asp Ala Ile Ile Cys Leu	
140 145 150	
GGC AAC TCC TTT ACC CAC CTG TTC TCG GAG CGG GAC CGC CGC AAG ACG	711
Gly Asn Ser Phe Thr His Leu Phe Ser Glu Arg Asp Arg Arg Lys Thr	
155 160 165	
CTG GCT GAG TTC TAC GCG ATG CTC AAG CAC GAC GGT GTC CTG ATC ATC	759
Leu Ala Glu Phe Tyr Ala Met Leu Lys His Asp Gly Val Leu Ile Ile	
170 175 180	
GAC CAG CGA AAC TAC GAC TCC ATT CTT GAC ACC GGC TTC TCC AGT AAG	807
Asp Gln Arg Asn Tyr Asp Ser Ile Leu Asp Thr Gly Phe Ser Ser Lys	
185 190 195 200	
CAC ACG TAT TAC TAC GCC GGT GAG GAC GTT TCC GCG GAG CCC GAC CAC	855
His Thr Tyr Tyr Tyr Ala Gly Glu Asp Val Ser Ala Glu Pro Asp His	
205 210 215	

CCC Pro	ATC Ile	CTG Leu	GAC Asp	AGG Arg	CTG Leu	CAC His	CTG Leu	GAC Asp	TCG Ser	CTC Leu	GGC Gly	TCG Ser	CCC Pro	GGT Gly	TTC Phe	1671		
195																200	205	
TAC Tyr	CGG Arg	AAG Lys	GAG Glu	CTG Leu	ACT Thr	CGT Arg	CTC Leu	GGG Gly	CTG Leu	CAG Gln	AAC Asn	ATC Ile	GAG Glu	TTC Phe	GAG Glu	1719		
210																215	220	
GAC Asp	CTC Leu	AGC Ser	GAA Glu	TAC Tyr	CTG Leu	CCC Pro	GTC Val	CAC His	TAC Tyr	GGC Gly	CGG Arg	GTT Val	CTG Leu	GAA Glu	GTG Val	1767		
225																230	235	240
CTG Leu	GAG Glu	AGC Ser	CGG Arg	GAG Glu	AAC Asn	GAG Glu	CTC Leu	GCC Ala	GGC Gly	TTC Phe	ATC Ile	GGC Gly	GAG Glu	GAG Glu	TAC Tyr	1815		
245																250	255	
CGA Arg	GCT Ala	CAC His	ATG Met	AAG Lys	ACC Thr	GGG Gly	CTG Leu	CGC Arg	AAC Asn	TGG Trp	GTG Val	CAG Gln	GCC Ala	GGC Gly	AAT Asn	1863		
260																265	270	
primer 6																		
GGC Gly	GGG Gly	AGC Ser	CTG Leu	GCC Ala	TGG Trp	GGC Gly	ATC Ile	ATC Ile	CAC His	GCC Ala	AGG Arg	GCA Ala	TGACAGCCGT			1912		
275																280	285	
SDMT ←																		
CGCGTACGAA GAACGATCAG AAGCAGTTAG CAGTGAGGTG AAGATCAGCC GTGACTGAGA																1972		
TGAACCGCAG GTTGTTCACC AAGTGAGTCC GTGACCGAGG GCCACCCGGA CAAG																2029		
Met 1 → SAMS																2077		
GCC Ala	GAC Asp	TCG Ser	ATC Ile	AGC Ser	GAC Asp	GCG Ala	ATC Ile	CTG Leu	GAC Asp	GCG Ala	ATG Met	CTG Leu	GCT Ala	CAG Gln	GAC Asp	2125		
5																10	15	
CCC Pro	CGC Arg	TCC Ser	CGC Arg	GTG Val	GCC Ala	ATG Met	GAG Glu	ACC Thr	ATG Met	ATC Ile	ACC Thr	ACC Thr	GGG Gly	CAG Gln	GTG Val	2173		
20																25	30	
CAC His	CTG Leu	GCC Ala	GGT Gly	GAG Glu	GTG Val	ACC Thr	ACC Thr	GAG Glu	GCC Ala	GAC Asp	GTC Val	GAC Asp	CTG Leu	CCC Pro	GCG Ala	2221		
35																40	45	
ATC Ile	GTG Val	CGG Arg	GAG Glu	AAG Lys	GTC Val	CTC Leu	GAG Glu	ATC Ile	GGC Gly	TAC Tyr	GAC Asp	AAC Asn	TCG Ser	GCC Ala	AAG Lys	2269		
50																55	60	65
GGC Gly	TTC Phe	GAC Asp	GGA Gly	GAC Asp	TCC Ser	TGC Cys	GGC Gly	ATC Ile	AAC Asn	GTC Val	TCC Ser	ATC Ile	GAC Asp	GCG Ala	CAG Gln	2317		
70																75	80	
TCC Ser	CCG Pro	GAC Asp	ATC Ile	GGC Gly	CAG Gln	GGC Gly	GTG Val	GAC Asp	TCC Ser	GCT Ala	CAC His	GAG Glu	TCC Ser	CGC Arg	GTC Val	2365		
85																90	95	
GAG Glu	GGT Gly	GCC Ala	ATC Ile	GAC Asp	GAG Glu	ATC Ile	GCC Ala	AGT Ser	CAG Gln	GGC Gly	GCC Ala	GGC Gly	GAC Asp	CAG Gln	GGC Gly	2413		
100																105	110	
CTG Leu	ATG Met	TTC Phe	GGT Gly	TAC Tyr	GCC Ala	ACC Thr	AGC Ser	GAG Glu	ACC Thr	GAC Asp	GAG Glu	CTC Leu	ATG Met	CCG Pro	CTG Leu	2461		
115																120	125	
CCG Pro	ATC Ile	GCG Ala	TTG Leu	GCC Ala	CAC His	CGC Arg	ATG Met	TCG Ser	CGT Arg	CGA Arg	CTG Leu	ACC Thr	CGC Arg	GTG Val	CGC Arg	2461		
130																135	140	145

AAC GAC GGC ACG CTG CCG TAC CTG CGT GCC GAC GGC AAG ACC CAG GTC	2509
Asn Asp Gly Thr Leu Pro Tyr Leu Arg Ala Asp Gly Lys Thr Gln Val	
150 155 160	
ACC GTC GAG TAC GCC GGT GAC CAG CCG GTT CGC CTG GAC ACC ACG GTG	2557
Thr Val Glu Tyr Ala Gly Asp Gln Pro Val Arg Leu Asp Thr Thr Val	
165 170 175	
CTG TCC AGC CAG CAC GCC GAG GAC GTC GAC CTC GAC AAG CAA CTG ATC	2605
Leu Ser Ser Gln His Ala Glu Asp Val Asp Leu Asp Lys Gln Leu Ile	
180 185 190	
CCC GAG GTC AGG GAC AAG GTC ATC ACC CCG GAG ATC GAG AAG GTC GGG	2653
Pro Glu Val Arg Asp Lys Val Ile Thr Pro Glu Ile Glu Lys Val Gly	
195 200 205	
CTG GAC ACC TCG GAC ATG CGT CTG CTG GTG AAT CCG ACG GGT CGG TTC	2701
Leu Asp Thr Ser Asp Met Arg Leu Leu Val Asn Pro Thr Gly Arg Phe	
210 215 220 225	
GTC ACG GGT GGT CCG ATG GGG TGACTGCGGG CTGACCGGCC GCAAAGATCA	2752
Val Thr Gly Gly Pro Met Gly *	
230	
SAMS ←	
TCGTGACAC CTACGGCGGG ATGGCCCCGC CACGGTGGCG GTGCCTCTCC GGTAAGGAC	2812
CT	2814

Fig. 10

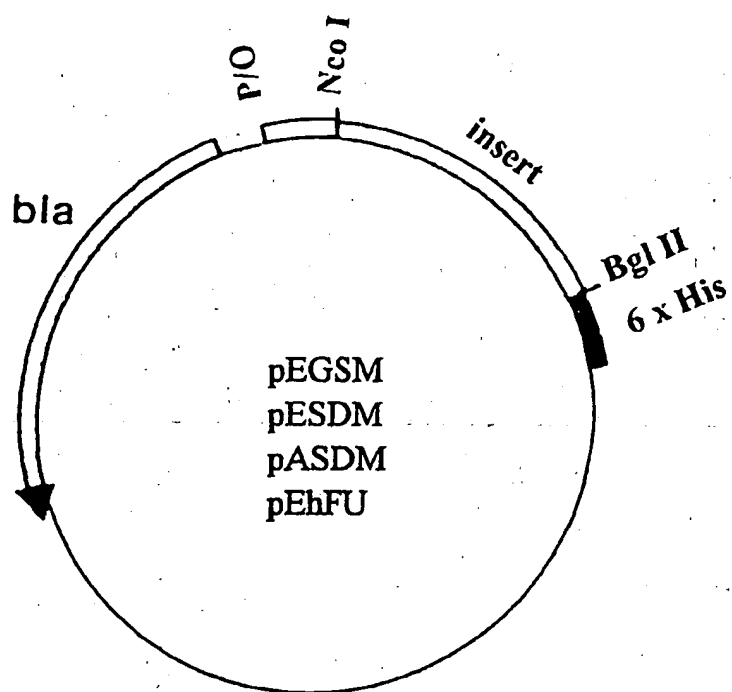


Fig. 11

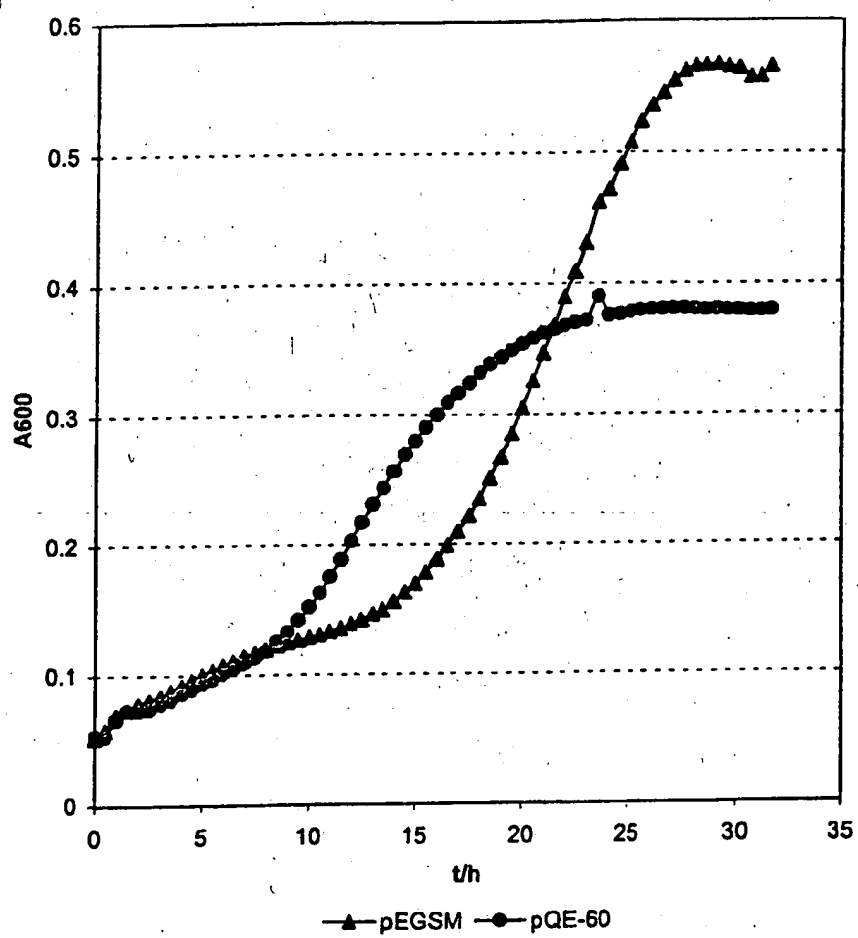
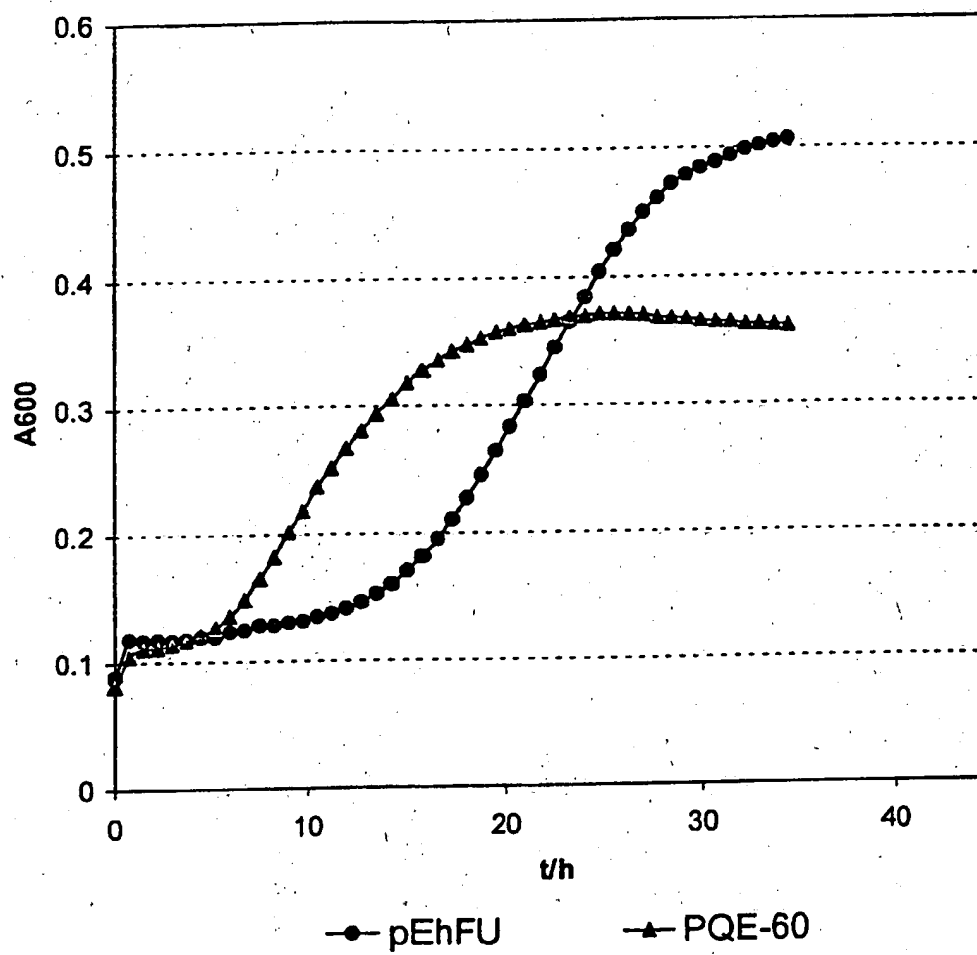


Fig. 12



SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Reinikainen, Tapani
Nyyssölä, Antti
Kerovuori, Janne

<120> Methyltransferases, nucleic acid molecules encoding
methyltransferases, their recombinant expression and
uses thereof

<130> 73695

<140>

<141>

<160> 30

<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0

<210> 1

<211> 2814

<212> DNA

<213> Actinopolyspora halophila

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (208) .. (1047)

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1048) .. (1902)

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (2027) .. (2722)

<400> 1

aatctgcgcc gggatcggac ggcaaaggtg ccgaccgagt gtgctgatcg atgccagcgc 60
gcggcccgt agttcggctg cccgcacatcg tccggcgtgc ccttctgtgtg aggtgacccg 120
gcgcgcccgt gaaagctcgg ggcggcgtaa ttcgccgtgg ttccgagcga tgcagtggcg 180
cttgaccaac gcgagtggga gctgagt atg acc aag agc gtg gac gat ctt gcc 234
Met Thr Lys Ser Val Asp Asp Leu Ala

1

5

cgt ggt gac cag gcc ggg gac gag cag gac ccg gtg cac cgc gag cag 282
Arg Gly Asp Gln Ala Gly Asp Glu Gln Asp Pro Val His Arg Glu Gln
10 15 20 25

cag acg ttc ggc gac aat ccg ttg gaa gta cgc gac act gat cac tac 330
Gln Thr Phe Gly Asp Asn Pro Leu Glu Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His Tyr
30 35 40

atg cat gag tac gtc ggt ggt ttt gtc gac aag tgg gac gat ctg atc 378
Met His Glu Tyr Val Gly Gly Phe Val Asp Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu Ile
45 50 55

gat tgg aag aag cgc tac gaa agc gag ggc agc ttc ttc atc gac caa 426
Asp Trp Lys Lys Arg Tyr Glu Ser Glu Gly Ser Phe Phe Ile Asp Gln
60 65 70

ttg cgc gca cgc ggt gtc gag acc gtg ctg gac gcg gcg gcc ggg acc 474
Leu Arg Ala Arg Gly Val Glu Thr Val Leu Asp Ala Ala Ala Gly Thr
75 80 85

ggt ttc cac tcg gtc cgg ttg ctc gag gag ggg ttt gag acc gtc agc 522
Gly Phe His Ser Val Arg Leu Leu Glu Glu Gly Phe Glu Thr Val Ser
90 95 100 105

gcg gac ggc agc ccg cag atg ctg gcc aag gcc ttc agt aac gga ctg 570
 Ala Asp Gly Ser Pro Gln Met Leu Ala Lys Ala Phe Ser Asn Gly Leu
 110 115 120

gcc tac aac ggt cac att ctg cgt gtg gtc aac gcg gac tgg cgt tgg 618
 Ala Tyr Asn Gly His Ile Leu Arg Val Val Asn Ala Asp Trp Arg Trp
 125 130 135

ctc aac cgt gac gtg cac ggt gaa tac gac gcg atc att tgc ctg ggc 666
 Leu Asn Arg Asp Val His Gly Glu Tyr Asp Ala Ile Ile Cys Leu Gly
 140 145 150

aac tcc ttt acc cac ctg ttc tcg gag cgg gac cgc cgc aag acg ctg 714
 Asn Ser Phe Thr His Leu Phe Ser Glu Arg Asp Arg Arg Lys Thr Leu
 155 160 165

gct gag ttc tac gcg atg ctc aag cac gac ggt gtc ctg atc atc gac 762
 Ala Glu Phe Tyr Ala Met Leu Lys His Asp Gly Val Leu Ile Ile Asp
 170 175 180 185

cag cga aac tac gac tcc att ctt gac acc ggc ttc tcc agt aag cac 810
 Gln Arg Asn Tyr Asp Ser Ile Leu Asp Thr Gly Phe Ser Ser Lys His
 190 195 200

acg tat tac tac gcc ggt gag gac gtt tcc gcg gag ccc gac cac atc 858
 Thr Tyr Tyr Tyr Ala Gly Glu Asp Val Ser Ala Glu Pro Asp His Ile
 205 210 215

gac gac ggg ctg gcg cgg ttc aag tac acg ttc ccg gac aag tcc gaa 906
 Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Arg Phe Lys Tyr Thr Phe Pro Asp Lys Ser Glu
 220 225 230

ttc ttc ctg aac atg tac ccg ctg cgg aaa gac tac atg cgg cgg ctc 954

Phe Phe Leu Asn Met Tyr Pro Leu Arg Lys Asp Tyr Met Arg Arg Leu
 235 240 245
 atg cgt gag gtc ggt ttc caa agg att gac acc tac ggt gat ttc cag 1002
 Met Arg Glu Val Gly Phe Gln Arg Ile Asp Thr Tyr Gly Asp Phe Gln
 250 255 260 265
 gaa act tac ggt gaa gac gag ccc gac ttc tac atc cac gtc gcg gag 1050
 Glu Thr Tyr Gly Glu Asp Glu Pro Asp Phe Tyr Ile His Val Ala Glu
 270 275 280 1
 aag agc tac cgc acc gag gac gag ttc gtc gac atg tac tcg aac gcg 1098
 Lys Ser Tyr Arg Thr Glu Asp Glu Phe Val Asp Met Tyr Ser Asn Ala
 5 10 15
 gtg cac acc gcg cgg gac tac tac aac tcc gag gac gcg gac aac ttc 1146
 Val His Thr Ala Arg Asp Tyr Tyr Asn Ser Glu Asp Ala Asp Asn Phe
 20 25 30
 tac tac cac gtc tgg ggc ggc aac gac atc cac gtc ggg ctg tac cag 1194
 Tyr Tyr His Val Trp Gly Gly Asn Asp Ile His Val Gly Leu Tyr Gln
 35 40 45
 aca ccg cag gag gac atc gcc acc gcc agt gag cgc act gtc cag cgg 1242
 Thr Pro Gln Glu Asp Ile Ala Thr Ala Ser Glu Arg Thr Val Gln Arg
 50 55 60 65
 atg gcg ggc aag gtc gac atc agc ccc gaa acc agg att ctg gat ctc 1290
 Met Ala Gly Lys Val Asp Ile Ser Pro Glu Thr Arg Ile Leu Asp Leu
 70 75 80
 ggt gcc ggc tac ggc gga gcc gcg cgg tac ctg gcc agg acc tac ggc 1338
 Gly Ala Gly Tyr Gly Gly Ala Ala Arg Tyr Leu Ala Arg Thr Tyr Gly
 85 90 95

tgc cac gtc acc tgc ctc aac ctc agc gag gtg gag aac cag cgc aac 1386
 Cys His Val Thr Cys Leu Asn Leu Ser Glu Val Glu Asn Gln Arg Asn
 100 105 110

cgc gag atc act cgc gcc gag ggg ctc gag cac ctg atc gag gtg acc 1434
 Arg Glu Ile Thr Arg Ala Glu Gly Leu Glu His Leu Ile Glu Val Thr
 115 120 125

gac ggt tcc ttc gag gat ctc ccc tac cag gac aac gcg ttc gac gtg 1482
 Asp Gly Ser Phe Glu Asp Leu Pro Tyr Gln Asp Asn Ala Phe Asp Val
 130 135 140 145

gtc tgg tcg cag gac tcc ttc ctc cac agc ggt gac cgc agc agg gtc 1530
 Val Trp Ser Gln Asp Ser Phe Leu His Ser Gly Asp Arg Ser Arg Val
 150 155 160

atg gaa gag gtg acc cgg gtc ctc aag ccg aag ggt tcg gtg ctg ttc 1578
 Met Glu Glu Val Thr Arg Val Leu Lys Pro Lys Gly Ser Val Leu Phe
 165 170 175

acc gat ccg atg gcg tcc gac tcg gcg aag aag aac gag ctc ggc ccc 1626
 Thr Asp Pro Met Ala Ser Asp Ser Ala Lys Lys Asn Glu Leu Gly Pro
 180 185 190

atc ctg gac agg ctg cac ctg gac tcg ctc ggc tcg ccc ggt ttc tac 1674
 Ile Leu Asp Arg Leu His Leu Asp Ser Leu Gly Ser Pro Gly Phe Tyr
 195 200 205

cgg aag gag ctg act cgt ctc ggg ctg cag aac atc gag ttc gag gac 1722
 Arg Lys Glu Leu Thr Arg Leu Gly Leu Gln Asn Ile Glu Phe Glu Asp
 210 215 220 225

ctc agc gaa tac ctg ccc gtc cac tac ggc cgg gtt ctg gaa gtg ctg 1770

Leu Ser Glu Tyr Leu Pro Val His Tyr Gly Arg Val Leu Glu Val Leu
 230 235 240

gag agc cgg gag aac gag ctc gcc ggc ttc atc ggc gag gag tac cga 1818
 Glu Ser Arg Glu Asn Glu Leu Ala Gly Phe Ile Gly Glu Glu Tyr Arg
 245 250 255

gct cac atg aag acc ggg ctg cgc aac tgg gtg cag gcc ggc aat ggc 1866
 Ala His Met Lys Thr Gly Leu Arg Asn Trp Val Gln Ala Gly Asn Gly
 260 265 270

ggg agc ctg gcc tgg ggc atc atc cac gcc agg gca tgacagccgt 1912
 Gly Ser Leu Ala Trp Gly Ile Ile His Ala Arg Ala
 275 280 285

cgcgtagcga gaacgatcag aagcagttag cagtgggtg aagatcagcc gtgactgaga 1972

tgaaccgcag gttgttcacc aagtgagtcg gtgaccgagg gccacccgga caag atg 2029
 Met
 1

gcc gac tcg atc agc gac gcg atc ctg gac gcg atg ctg gct cag gac 2077
 Ala Asp Ser Ile Ser Asp Ala Ile Leu Asp Ala Met Leu Ala Gln Asp
 5 10 15

ccc cgc tcc cgc gtg gcc atg gag acc atg atc acc acc ggg cag gtg 2125
 Pro Arg Ser Arg Val Ala Met Glu Thr Met Ile Thr Thr Gly Gln Val
 20 25 30

cac ctg gcc ggt gag gtg acc acc gag gcc gac gtc gac ctg ccc gcg 2173
 His Leu Ala Gly Glu Val Thr Thr Glu Ala Asp Val Asp Leu Pro Ala
 35 40 45

atc gtg cgg gag aag gtc ctc gag atc ggc tac gac aac tcg gcc aag 2221

Ile Val Arg Glu Lys Val Leu Glu Ile Gly Tyr Asp Asn Ser Ala Lys,

50 55 60 65

ggc ttc gac gga gac tcc tgc ggc atc aac gtc tcc atc gac gcg cag 2269

Gly Phe Asp Gly Asp Ser Cys Gly Ile Asn Val Ser Ile Asp Ala Gln

70 75 80

tcc ccg gac atc ggc cag ggc gtg gac tcc gct cac gag tcc cgc gtc 2317

Ser Pro Asp Ile Gly Gln Gly Val Asp Ser Ala His Glu Ser Arg Val

85 90 95

gag ggt gcc atc gac gag atc gcc agt cag ggc gcc ggc gac cag ggc 2365

Glu Gly Ala Ile Asp Glu Ile Ala Ser Gln Gly Ala Gly Asp Gln Gly

100 105 110

ctg atg ttc ggt tac gcc acc agc gag acc gac gag ctc atg ccg ctg 2413

Leu Met Phe Gly Tyr Ala Thr Ser Glu Thr Asp Glu Leu Met Pro Leu

115 120 125

ccg atc gcg ttg gcc cac cgc atg tcg cgt cga ctg acc cgc gtg cgc 2461

Pro Ile Ala Leu Ala His Arg Met Ser Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Val Arg

130 135 140 145

aac gac ggc acg ctg ccg tac ctg cgt gcc gac ggc aag acc cag gtc 2509

Asn Asp Gly Thr Leu Pro Tyr Leu Arg Ala Asp Gly Lys Thr Gln Val

150 155 160

acc gtc gag tac gcc ggt gac cag ccg gtt cgc ctg gac acc acg gtg 2557

Thr Val Glu Tyr Ala Gly Asp Gln Pro Val Arg Leu Asp Thr Thr Val

165 170 175

ctg tcc agc cag cac gcc gag gac gtc gac ctc gac aag caa ctg atc 2605

Leu Ser Ser Gln His Ala Glu Asp Val Asp Leu Asp Lys Gln Leu Ile

180 185 190

ccc gag gtc agg gac aag gtc atc acc ccg gag atc gag aag gtc ggg 2653
 Pro Glu Val Arg Asp Lys Val Ile Thr Pro Glu Ile Glu Lys Val Gly

195

200

205

ctg gac acc tcg gac atg cgt ctg ctg gtg aat ccg acg ggt cgg ttc 2701
 Leu Asp Thr Ser Asp Met Arg Leu Leu Val Asn Pro Thr Gly Arg Phe

210

215

220

225

gtc acg ggt ggt ccg atg ggg tgactgcggg ctgaccggcc gcaaagatca 2752
 Val Thr Gly Gly Pro Met Gly

230

tcgtcgacac ctacggcggg atggccccgc cacggtggcg gtgcctctcc ggtaaaggac 2812

ct

2814

<210> 2

<211> 280

<212> PRT

<213> Actinopolyspora halophila

<400> 2

Met Thr Lys Ser Val Asp Asp Leu Ala Arg Gly Asp Gln Ala Gly Asp

1

5

10

15

Glu Gln Asp Pro Val His Arg Glu Gln Gln Thr Phe Gly Asp Asn Pro

20

25

30

Leu Glu Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His Tyr Met His Glu Tyr Val Gly Gly

35

40

45

Phe Val Asp Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu Ile Asp Trp Lys Lys Arg Tyr Glu

50) 55 60
 Ser Glu Gly Ser Phe Phe Ile Asp Gln Leu Arg Ala Arg Gly Val Glu
 65 70 75 80
 Thr Val Leu Asp Ala Ala Ala Gly Thr Gly Phe His Ser Val Arg Leu
 85 90 95
 Leu Glu Glu Gly Phe Glu Thr Val Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Pro Gln Met
 100 105 110
 Leu Ala Lys Ala Phe Ser Asn Gly Leu Ala Tyr Asn Gly His Ile Leu
 115 120 125
 Arg Val Val Asn Ala Asp Trp Arg Trp Leu Asn Arg Asp Val His Gly
 130 135 140
 Glu Tyr Asp Ala Ile Ile Cys Leu Gly Asn Ser Phe Thr His Leu Phe
 145 150 155 160
 Ser Glu Arg Asp Arg Arg Lys Thr Leu Ala Glu Phe Tyr Ala Met Leu
 165 170 175
 Lys His Asp Gly Val Leu Ile Ile Asp Gln Arg Asn Tyr Asp Ser Ile
 180 185 190
 Leu Asp Thr Gly Phe Ser Ser Lys His Thr Tyr Tyr Tyr Ala Gly Glu
 195 200 205
 Asp Val Ser Ala Glu Pro Asp His Ile Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Arg Phe
 210 215 220
 Lys Tyr Thr Phe Pro Asp Lys Ser Glu Phe Phe Leu Asn Met Tyr Pro
 225 230 235 240

Leu Arg Lys Asp Tyr Met Arg Arg Leu Met Arg Glu Val Gly Phe Gln

245

250

255

Arg Ile Asp Thr Tyr Gly Asp Phe Gln Glu Thr Tyr Gly Glu Asp Glu

260

265

270

Pro Asp Phe Tyr Ile His Val Ala

275

280

<210> 3

<211> 285

<212> PRT

<213> Actinopolyspora halophila

<400> 3

Glu Lys Ser Tyr Arg Thr Glu Asp Glu Phe Val Asp Met Tyr Ser Asn

1

5

10

15

Ala Val His Thr Ala Arg Asp Tyr Tyr Asn Ser Glu Asp Ala Asp Asn

20

25

30

Phe Tyr Tyr His Val Trp Gly Gly Asn Asp Ile His Val Gly Leu Tyr

35

40

45

Gln Thr Pro Gln Glu Asp Ile Ala Thr Ala Ser Glu Arg Thr Val Gln

50

55

60

Arg Met Ala Gly Lys Val Asp Ile Ser Pro Glu Thr Arg Ile Leu Asp

65

70

75

80

Leu Gly Ala Gly Tyr Gly Gly Ala Ala Arg Tyr Leu Ala Arg Thr Tyr

85

90

95

Gly Cys His Val Thr Cys Leu Asn Leu Ser Glu Val Glu Asn Gln Arg

100

105

110

Asn Arg Glu Ile Thr Arg Ala Glu Gly Leu Glu His Leu Ile Glu Val

115

120

125

Thr Asp Gly Ser Phe Glu Asp Leu Pro Tyr Gln Asp Asn Ala Phe Asp

130

135

140

Val Val Trp Ser Gln Asp Ser Phe Leu His Ser Gly Asp Arg Ser Arg

145

150

155

160

Val Met Glu Glu Val Thr Arg Val Leu Lys Pro Lys Gly Ser Val Leu

165

170

175

Phe Thr Asp Pro Met Ala Ser Asp Ser Ala Lys Lys Asn Glu Leu Gly

180

185

190

Pro Ile Leu Asp Arg Leu His Leu Asp Ser Leu Gly Ser Pro Gly Phe

195

200

205

Tyr Arg Lys Glu Leu Thr Arg Leu Gly Leu Gln Asn Ile Glu Phe Glu

210

215

220

Asp Leu Ser Glu Tyr Leu Pro Val His Tyr Gly Arg Val Leu Glu Val

225

230

235

240

Leu Glu Ser Arg Glu Asn Glu Leu Ala Gly Phe Ile Gly Glu Glu Tyr

245

250

255

Arg Ala His Met Lys Thr Gly Leu Arg Asn Trp Val Gln Ala Gly Asn

260

265

270

Gly Gly Ser Leu Ala Trp Gly Ile Ile His Ala Arg Ala
275 280 285

<210> 4

<211> 232

<212> PRT

<213> Actinopolyspora halophila

<400> 4

Met Ala Asp Ser Ile Ser Asp Ala Ile Leu Asp Ala Met Leu Ala Gln
1 5 10 15

Asp Pro Arg Ser Arg Val Ala Met Glu Thr Met Ile Thr Thr Gly Gln
20 25 30

Val His Leu Ala Gly Glu Val Thr Thr Glu Ala Asp Val Asp Leu Pro
35 40 45

Ala Ile Val Arg Glu Lys Val Leu Glu Ile Gly Tyr Asp Asn Ser Ala
50 55 60

Lys Gly Phe Asp Gly Asp Ser Cys Gly Ile Asn Val Ser Ile Asp Ala
65 70 75 80

Gln Ser Pro Asp Ile Gly Gln Gly Val Asp Ser Ala His Glu Ser Arg
85 90 95

Val Glu Gly Ala Ile Asp Glu Ile Ala Ser Gln Gly Ala Gly Asp Gln
100 105 110

Gly Leu Met Phe Gly Tyr Ala Thr Ser Glu Thr Asp Glu Leu Met Pro
115 120 125

Leu Pro Ile Ala Leu Ala His Arg Met Ser Arg Arg Leu Thr Arg Val
130 135 140

Arg Asn Asp Gly Thr Leu Pro Tyr Leu Arg Ala Asp Gly Lys Thr Gln
145 150 155 160

Val Thr Val Glu Tyr Ala Gly Asp Gln Pro Val Arg Leu Asp Thr Thr
165 170 175

Val Leu Ser Ser Gln His Ala Glu Asp Val Asp Leu Asp Lys Gln Leu
180 185 190

Ile Pro Glu Val Arg Asp Lys Val Ile Thr Pro Glu Ile Glu Lys Val
195 200 205

Gly Leu Asp Thr Ser Asp Met Arg Leu Leu Val Asn Pro Thr Gly Arg
210 215 220

Phe Val Thr Gly Gly Pro Met Gly
225 230

<210> 5

<211> 3219

<212> DNA

<213> Ectothiorhodospira halochloris

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (221)..(1024)

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1031)..(1867)

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (2006) .. (3004)

<400> 5

gcaggctcgg tgccaccaat acagggcagc cccctggcca gaaacacgcc ccgtagttac 60

ggaggcgcat gccatagata atgaacttgc tacaagaggc acttgacatt cagttgtcca 120

agcggcgccg gcgatcaagc acacgatctg aattcacagc gtatgggtat accgtagcgc 180

gcgttcgcta caccaaccat tcgccaagct gaggtgatat atg aat acg act act 235

Met Asn Thr Thr Thr

1

5

gag cag gac ttc gga gcg gac cca aca aaa gtc cga gat acc gac cac 283

Glu Gln Asp Phe Gly Ala Asp Pro Thr Lys Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His

10

15

20

tac acg gaa gag tat gtt gac ggg ttt gtc gac aaa tgg gac gac ttg 331

Tyr Thr Glu Glu Tyr Val Asp Gly Phe Val Asp Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu

25

30

35

att gat tgg gat agc cgc gcg aag agt gaa ggt gat ttc ttt att caa 379

Ile Asp Trp Asp Ser Arg Ala Lys Ser Glu Gly Asp Phe Phe Ile Gln

40

45

50

gag ttg aag aag cgt ggt gcc aca cgc atc ctc gat gcc gca aca ggt 427

Glu Leu Lys Lys Arg Gly Ala Thr Arg Ile Leu Asp Ala Ala Thr Gly

55

60

65

acc ggc ttc cac tca gtg cgt ttg ctc gag gcg ggt ttt gat gtc gtc 475

Thr Gly Phe His Ser Val Arg Leu Leu Glu Ala Gly Phe Asp Val Val

70	75	80	85	
agt gct gat ggc agt gcc gag atg ctc gcc aaa gcc ttc gag aat ggg				523
Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Ala Glu Met Leu Ala Lys Ala Phe Glu Asn Gly				
90	95	100		
cgt aag cgt ggc cat atc cta cgc acg gtt cag gtc gac tgg cgg tgg				571
Arg Lys Arg Gly His Ile Leu Arg Thr Val Gln Val Asp Trp Arg Trp				
105	110	115		
ctg aat cgc gat atc cac ggt cgt tat gac gcc att atc tgc ctt ggc				619
Leu Asn Arg Asp Ile His Gly Arg Tyr Asp Ala Ile Ile Cys Leu Gly				
120	125	130		
aac tcg ttt acc cac ctg ttt aat gaa aaa gat cgg cgc aag acc ctg				667
Asn Ser Phe Thr His Leu Phe Asn Glu Lys Asp Arg Arg Lys Thr Leu				
135	140	145		
gca gag ttc tat tcc gcg ctg aac ccg gaa ggg gtg ctg ata ttg gat				715
Ala Glu Phe Tyr Ser Ala Leu Asn Pro Glu Gly Val Leu Ile Leu Asp				
150	155	160	165	
cag cgc aat tac gac ggc atc ctc gat cac ggc tat gac tca agc cac				763
Gln Arg Asn Tyr Asp Gly Ile Leu Asp His Gly Tyr Asp Ser Ser His				
170	175	180		
tcc tac tac tat tgc ggt gag ggc gtc tct gtc tat cct gag cac gtt				811
Ser Tyr Tyr Tyr Cys Gly Glu Gly Val Ser Val Tyr Pro Glu His Val				
185	190	195		
gat gat ggc cta gcc cgc ttc aag tat gaa ttc aac gac ggt tca act				859
Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Arg Phe Lys Tyr Glu Phe Asn Asp Gly Ser Thr				
200	205	210		

tac ttc ctg aac atg ttc ccg ctg cgc aag gat tac acg cgc cgc cta 907
 Tyr Phe Leu Asn Met Phe Pro Leu Arg Lys Asp Tyr Thr Arg Arg Leu
 215 220 225

atg cat gag gtg ggt ttc caa aaa atc gat acc tac ggc gac ttc aag 955
 Met His Glu Val Gly Phe Gln Lys Ile Asp Thr Tyr Gly Asp Phe Lys
 230 235 240 245

gca acc tac cgc gat gca gat ccg gat ttc ttt att cat gtc gcc gag 1003
 Ala Thr Tyr Arg Asp Ala Asp Pro Asp Phe Phe Ile His Val Ala Glu
 250 255 260

aag gaa tat cgg gag gag gac tgatat atg gcg acg cgc tac gac gat 1051
 Lys Glu Tyr Arg Glu Glu Asp Met Ala Thr Arg Tyr Asp Asp
 265 1 5

caa gcc ata gaa acg gcg agg cag tac tat aac agt gag gat gcc gat 1099
 Gln Ala Ile Glu Thr Ala Arg Gln Tyr Tyr Asn Ser Glu Asp Ala Asp
 10 15 20

aac ttc tac gcc ata ata tgg ggt ggt gag gat atc cat atc ggt ttg 1147
 Asn Phe Tyr Ala Ile Ile Trp Gly Gly Glu Asp Ile His Ile Gly Leu
 25 30 35

tac aac gat gat gaa gag ccg ata gca gat gcc agc agg cgt act gta 1195
 Tyr Asn Asp Asp Glu Glu Pro Ile Ala Asp Ala Ser Arg Arg Thr Val
 40 45 50 55

gag cgc atg tcg tca ctg tcc cgg cag ctt ggc cca gat agc tat gtc 1243
 Glu Arg Met Ser Ser Leu Ser Arg Gln Leu Gly Pro Asp Ser Tyr Val
 60 65 70

ctc gac atg ggg gct ggt tac gga ggg tct gcc cgt tac ctt gcg cat 1291
 Leu Asp Met Gly Ala Gly Tyr Gly Gly Ser Ala Arg Tyr Leu Ala His

75	80	85	
aag tat ggc tgt aag gtg gcg gcg ctc aat ctc tcc gaa cgt gag aat			1339
Lys Tyr Gly Cys Lys Val Ala Ala Leu Asn Leu Ser Glu Arg Glu Asn			
90	95	100	
gag cgt gat cgg cag atg aat aag gag caa gga gtc gat cac ctg att			1387
Glu Arg Asp Arg Gln Met Asn Lys Glu Gln Gly Val Asp His Leu Ile			
105	110	115	
gag gtt gtc gat gct gcc ttt gaa gat gtc ccc tat gat gat ggg gtg			1435
Glu Val Val Asp Ala Ala Phe Glu Asp Val Pro Tyr Asp Asp Gly Val			
120	125	130	135
ttt gac ctg gtc tgg tcg cag gac tcc ttc ctc cat agt ccg gat agg			1483
Phe Asp Leu Val Trp Ser Gln Asp Ser Phe Leu His Ser Pro Asp Arg			
140	145	150	
gaa cgc gta ctg cgg gag gct agt aga gtt ctg cgt tct ggg ggc gag			1531
Glu Arg Val Leu Arg Glu Ala Ser Arg Val Leu Arg Ser Gly Gly Glu			
155	160	165	
ttt atc ttc acc gat cca atg cag gcg gat gat tgc ccc gag ggg gtt			1579
Phe Ile Phe Thr Asp Pro Met Gln Ala Asp Asp Cys Pro Glu Gly Val			
170	175	180	
att caa ccg atc ctc gat agg atc cac ctc gag acg atg ggc acg cct			1627
Ile Gln Pro Ile Leu Asp Arg Ile His Leu Glu Thr Met Gly Thr Pro			
186	190	195	
aat ttc tat cgc cag acc ctt agg gat ctg ggc ttt gag gaa atc acc			1675
Asn Phe Tyr Arg Gln Thr Leu Arg Asp Leu Gly Phe Glu Glu Ile Thr			
200	205	210	215

ttc gaa gac cac acc cat cag ttg ccg cgc cat tac ggg cgc gtg cgc 1723
 Phe Glu Asp His Thr His Gln Leu Pro Arg His Tyr Gly Arg Val Arg
 220 225 230

cgt gag cta gat cgt cga gaa ggt gaa ctg cag ggg cat gtc tcg gca 1771
 Arg Glu Leu Asp Arg Arg Glu Gly Glu Leu Gln Gly His Val Ser Ala
 235 240 245

gag tac atc gaa cgc atg aaa aat ggc ctt gac cac tgg gtc aat ggc 1819
 Glu Tyr Ile Glu Arg Met Lys Asn Gly Leu Asp His Trp Val Asn Gly
 250 255 260

ggt aac aag ggt tat ctc acc tgg ggt atc ttt tac ttc cgc aaa ggg 1867
 Gly Asn Lys Gly Tyr Leu Thr Trp Gly Ile Phe Tyr Phe Arg Lys Gly
 265 270 275

tgatcactag agcgctaaat cgcaggcgcg gtaattgtgc cgcgcttcgg gcgcataatgt 1927

tttagcccag tggatttgca catagaaaag agtgaattct gggttagcgc tcgaataaac 1987

tatagcaaag gagaaact atg act aag cga tat cta ttt acc tct gag tcg 2038
 Met Thr Lys Arg Tyr Leu Phe Thr Ser Glu Ser

1 5 10

gtc tct gaa ggc cac ccg gac aaa atg gcc gac cag att tcg gat gca 2086
 Val Ser Glu Gly His Pro Asp Lys Met Ala Asp Gln Ile Ser Asp Ala

15 20 25

ctg ctc gat gag ttc ctg cgc cag gat cca aag tcg cgg gtg gct gca 2134
 Leu Leu Asp Glu Phe Leu Arg Gln Asp Pro Lys Ser Arg Val Ala Ala

30 35 40

gag acg atg att cag acc ggc atg gtt gta gtt gcc ggc gaa att aag 2182
 Glu Thr Met Ile Gln Thr Gly Met Val Val Val Ala Gly Glu Ile Lys

45

50

55

agc aat gcc aag atc aat gtt gag ccg ctg gta cgt gaa gtt gtc cgc 2230
 Ser Asn Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Glu Val Val Arg 75
 60 65 70

gat atc ggc tac acc agc tca gat atg ggc ttt gat gcc gac acc tgt 2278
 Asp Ile Gly Tyr Thr Ser Ser Asp Met Gly Phe Asp Ala Asp Thr Cys
 80 85 90

gcc gta ctc aac gcc ctc ggc gag cag tcc ccc gac atc aat caa ggc 2326
 Ala Val Leu Asn Ala Leu Gly Glu Gln Ser Pro Asp Ile Asn Gln Gly
 95 100 105

gtt gac cgg gaa gag gaa gag gag cag ggc gcc ggt gac caa gga ctg 2374
 Val Asp Arg Glu Glu Glu Glu Glu Gln Gly Ala Gly Asp Gln Gly Leu
 110 115 120

atg ttc ggt tac gcc acc aat gag acc gac gtc ctc atg ccg gca gcg 2422
 Met Phe Gly Tyr Ala Thr Asn Glu Thr Asp Val Leu Met Pro Ala Ala
 125 130 135

atc cac tac tcg cac ctg ctg gtt aag cgc caa tcc gaa gtc cgt aac 2470
 Ile His Tyr Ser His Leu Leu Val Lys Arg Gln Ser Glu Val Arg Asn
 140 145 150 155

tcc aag aag ctg ccg tgg ttg cgc ccg gac gct aag agc cag gtc acc 2518
 Ser Lys Lys Leu Pro Trp Leu Arg Pro Asp Ala Lys Ser Gln Val Thr
 160 165 170

ttc aag tac gaa ggc gat aag atc gtc ggt tgc gat gcg gtg gtg ctc 2566
 Phe Lys Tyr Glu Gly Asp Lys Ile Val Gly Cys Asp Ala Val Val Leu
 175 180 185

tcc acg cag cat gac gag acc gtt gat cag aag acc gtc cac gag ggc 2614
 Ser Thr Gln His Asp Glu Thr Val Asp Gln Lys Thr Val His Glu Gly
 190 195 200

gtg atg gaa gag atc atc aag ccc atc ctc ggt gac acc ggc tgg ctg 2662
 Val Met Glu Glu Ile Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Asp Thr Gly Trp Leu
 205 210 215

acc aac gag acc aag tac cac att aac ccg acc ggc cgc ttc gtt act 2710
 Thr Asn Glu Thr Lys Tyr His Ile Asn Pro Thr Gly Arg Phe Val Thr
 220 225 230 235

ggt ggt ccg ttg ggt gac tgt ggc ttg acc ggc cgt aag atc atc gtc 2758
 Gly Gly Pro Leu Gly Asp Cys Gly Leu Thr Gly Arg Lys Ile Ile Val
 240 245 250

gat acc tac ggc ggt atg ggc cgt cac ggc ggc ggt gcc ttc tcc ggc 2806
 Asp Thr Tyr Gly Gly Met Gly Arg His Gly Gly Gly Ala Phe Ser Gly
 255 260 265

aaa gat ccg tct aag gtc gat cgc tcg gcg gct tat gtt ggc cgt tat 2854
 Lys Asp Pro Ser Lys Val Asp Arg Ser Ala Ala Tyr Val Gly Arg Tyr
 270 275 280

gta gct aag aac ata gtg gct gcc ggt ctg gcc gac cgc tgt gag gtg 2902
 Val Ala Lys Asn Ile Val Ala Ala Gly Leu Ala Asp Arg Cys Glu Val
 285 290 295

cag ctc tcc tac gcc atc ggt gtt gcc gag ccg acc tcg gtc aat gtc 2950
 Gln Leu Ser Tyr Ala Ile Gly Val Ala Glu Pro Thr Ser Val Asn Val
 300 305 310 315

gaa acc ttt ggt acc ggc aag gtc gaa gaa gag ctc gcg cac gat ggc 2998
 Glu Thr Phe Gly Thr Gly Lys Val Glu Glu Glu Leu Ala His Asp Gly

320

325

330

cag ccc taagccgtgg ccgctgcgcg agccctggta gccggcgcca tcgaacgccg 3054

Gln Pro

caaagatatg tgccctgctgc tctgggggga tccccggacc ggtatcgcgc acttgggaagg 3114

tgattcggtc atcgagctcc accgcgggtgg cggccgctct agaactagtg gatcccccg 3174

gctgcaggaa ttcgatatca agcttatcga taccgtcgac ctcca 3219

<210> 6

<211> 268

<212> PRT

<213> Ectothiorhodospira halochloris

<400> 6

Met Asn Thr Thr Thr Glu Gln Asp Phe Gly Ala Asp Pro Thr Lys Val

1

5

10

15

Arg Asp Thr Asp His Tyr Thr Glu Glu Tyr Val Asp Gly Phe Val Asp

20

25

30

Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu Ile Asp Trp Asp Ser Arg Ala Lys Ser Glu Gly

35

40

45

Asp Phe Phe Ile Gln Glu Leu Lys Lys Arg Gly Ala Thr Arg Ile Leu

50

55

60

Asp Ala Ala Thr Gly Thr Gly Phe His Ser Val Arg Leu Leu Glu Ala

65

70

75

80

Gly Phe Asp Val Val Ser Ala Asp Gly Ser Ala Glu Met Leu Ala Lys
85 90 95

Ala Phe Glu Asn Gly Arg Lys Arg Gly His Ile Leu Arg Thr Val Gln
100 105 110

Val Asp Trp Arg Trp Leu Asn Arg Asp Ile His Gly Arg Tyr Asp Ala
115 120 125

Ile Ile Cys Leu Gly Asn Ser Phe Thr His Leu Phe Asn Glu Lys Asp
130 135 140

Arg Arg Lys Thr Leu Ala Glu Phe Tyr Ser Ala Leu Asn Pro Glu Gly
145 150 155 160

Val Leu Ile Leu Asp Gln Arg Asn Tyr Asp Gly Ile Leu Asp His Gly
165 170 175

Tyr Asp Ser Ser His Ser Tyr Tyr Tyr Cys Gly Glu Gly Val Ser Val
180 185 190

Tyr Pro Glu His Val Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Arg Phe Lys Tyr Glu Phe
195 200 205

Asn Asp Gly Ser Thr Tyr Phe Leu Asn Met Phe Pro Leu Arg Lys Asp
210 215 220

Tyr Thr Arg Arg Leu Met His Glu Val Gly Phe Gln Lys Ile Asp Thr
225 230 235 240

Tyr Gly Asp Phe Lys Ala Thr Tyr Arg Asp Ala Asp Pro Asp Phe Phe
245 250 255

Ile His Val Ala Glu Lys Glu Tyr Arg Glu Glu Asp

260

265

<210> 7

<211> 279

<212> PRT

<213> Ectothiorhodospira halochloris

<400> 7

Met Ala Thr Arg Tyr Asp Asp Gln Ala Ile Glu Thr Ala Arg Gln Tyr

1

5

10

15

Tyr Asn Ser Glu Asp Ala Asp Asn Phe Tyr Ala Ile Ile Trp Gly Gly

20

25

30

Glu Asp Ile His Ile Gly Leu Tyr Asn Asp Asp Glu Glu Pro Ile Ala

35

40

45

Asp Ala Ser Arg Arg Thr Val Glu Arg Met Ser Ser Leu Ser Arg Gln

50

55

60

Leu Gly Pro Asp Ser Tyr Val Leu Asp Met Gly Ala Gly Tyr Gly Gly

65

70

75

80

Ser Ala Arg Tyr Leu Ala His Lys Tyr Gly Cys Lys Val Ala Ala Leu

85

90

95

Asn Leu Ser Glu Arg Glu Asn Glu Arg Asp Arg Gln Met Asn Lys Glu

100

105

110

Gln Gly Val Asp His Leu Ile Glu Val Val Asp Ala Ala Phe Glu Asp

115

120

125

Val Pro Tyr Asp Asp Gly Val Phe Asp Leu Val Trp Ser Gln Asp Ser

130 135 140

Phe Leu His Ser Pro Asp Arg Glu Arg Val Leu Arg Glu Ala Ser Arg
145 150 155 160

Val Leu Arg Ser Gly Gly Glu Phe Ile Phe Thr Asp Pro Met Gln Ala
165 170 175

Asp Asp Cys Pro Glu Gly Val Ile Gln Pro Ile Leu Asp Arg Ile His
180 185 190

Leu Glu Thr Met Gly Thr Pro Asn Phe Tyr Arg Gln Thr Leu Arg Asp
195 200 205

Leu Gly Phe Glu Glu Ile Thr Phe Glu Asp His Thr His Gln Leu Pro
210 215 220

Arg His Tyr Gly Arg Val Arg Arg Glu Leu Asp Arg Arg Glu Gly Glu
225 230 235 240

Leu Gln Gly His Val Ser Ala Glu Tyr Ile Glu Arg Met Lys Asn Gly
245 250 255

Leu Asp His Trp Val Asn Gly Gly Asn Lys Gly Tyr Leu Thr Trp Gly
260 265 270

Ile Phe Tyr Phe Arg Lys Gly
275

<210> 8

<211> 333

<212> PRT

<213> Ectothiorhodospira halochloris

<400> 8

Met Thr Lys Arg Tyr Leu Phe Thr Ser Glu Ser Val Ser Glu Gly His

1 5 10 15

Pro Asp Lys Met Ala Asp Gln Ile Ser Asp Ala Leu Leu Asp Glu Phe

20 25 30

Leu Arg Gln Asp Pro Lys Ser Arg Val Ala Ala Glu Thr Met Ile Gln

35 40 45

Thr Gly Met Val Val Val Ala Gly Glu Ile Lys Ser Asn Ala Lys Ile

50 55 60

Asn Val Glu Pro Leu Val Arg Glu Val Val Arg Asp Ile Gly Tyr Thr

65 70 75 80

Ser Ser Asp Met Gly Phe Asp Ala Asp Thr Cys Ala Val Leu Asn Ala

85 90 95

Leu Gly Glu Gln Ser Pro Asp Ile Asn Gln Gly Val Asp Arg Glu Glu

100 105 110

Glu Glu Glu Gln Gly Ala Gly Asp Gln Gly Leu Met Phe Gly Tyr Ala

115 120 125

Thr Asn Glu Thr Asp Val Leu Met Pro Ala Ala Ile His Tyr Ser His

130 135 140

Leu Leu Val Lys Arg Gln Ser Glu Val Arg Asn Ser Lys Lys Leu Pro

145 150 155 160

Trp Leu Arg Pro Asp Ala Lys Ser Gln Val Thr Phe Lys Tyr Glu Gly

165 170 175

Asp Lys Ile Val Gly Cys Asp Ala Val Val Leu Ser Thr Gln His Asp

180

185

190

Glu Thr Val Asp Gln Lys Thr Val His Glu Gly Val Met Glu Glu Ile

195

200

205

Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Asp Thr Gly Trp Leu Thr Asn Glu Thr Lys

210

215

220

Tyr His Ile Asn Pro Thr Gly Arg Phe Val Thr Gly Gly Pro Leu Gly

225

230

235

240

Asp Cys Gly Leu Thr Gly Arg Lys Ile Ile Val Asp Thr Tyr Gly Gly

245

250

255

Met Gly Arg His Gly Gly Gly Ala Phe Ser Gly Lys Asp Pro Ser Lys

260

265

270

Val Asp Arg Ser Ala Ala Tyr Val Gly Arg Tyr Val Ala Lys Asn Ile

275

280

285

Val Ala Ala Gly Leu Ala Asp Arg Cys Glu Val Gln Leu Ser Tyr Ala

290

295

300

Ile Gly Val Ala Glu Pro Thr Ser Val Asn Val Glu Thr Phe Gly Thr

305

310

315

320

Gly Lys Val Glu Glu Glu Leu Ala His Asp Gly Gln Pro

325

330

<210> 9

<211> 37

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 9

Glu Lys Ser Tyr Arg Thr Glu Asp Glu Phe Val Asp Met Tyr Ser Asn
1 5 10 15

Ala Val His Thr Ala Arg Asp Tyr Tyr Asn Ser Glu Asp Ala Ser Asn
20 25 30

Phe Tyr Tyr His Val

35

<210> 10

<211> 15

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 10

Gly Ser Val Leu Phe Thr Asp Pro Met Ala Ser Asp Asp Ala Lys
1 5 10 15

<210> 11

<211> 10

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 11

Thr Gly Leu Arg Asn Tyr Gln Ala Gly Asn

1 5 10

<210> 12

<211> 16

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 12

Leu Xaa Glu Leu Gly Pro Ile Leu Asp Arg Leu His Leu Asp Ser Gly

1 5 10 15

<210> 13

<211> 25

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 13

Glu Leu Thr Arg Leu Gly Leu Gln Asn Ile Glu Phe Glu Asp Leu Ser

1 5 10 15

Glu Tyr Leu Pro Val His Tyr Gly Arg

20

25

<210> 14

<211> 18

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 14

Val Asp Ile Ser Pro Glu Thr Arg Ile Leu Asp Leu Gly Ser Gly Tyr

1

5

10

15

Gly Ala

<210> 15

<211> 23

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<220>

<221> SITE

<222> (4)

<223> Xaa = Thr or Glu

<400> 15

30

Asn Thr Thr Xaa Glu Gln Asp Phe Gly Ala Asp Pro Thr Lys Val Arg

1

5

10

15

Asp Thr Asp Ala Tyr Thr Glu

20

<210> 16

<211> 13

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 16

Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His Tyr Thr Glu Glu Tyr Val Asp

1

5

10

<210> 17

<211> 14

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 17

Asp Tyr Thr Arg Arg Leu Met His Glu Val Gly Phe Gln Lys

1

5

10

<210> 18

<211> 17

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 18

Ala Thr Tyr Arg Asp Ala Asp Pro Asp Phe Phe Leu His Val Ala Glu

1 5 10 15

Lys

<210> 19

<211> 24

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: peptide

<400> 19

Val Arg Asp Thr Asp His Tyr Thr Glu Glu Tyr Val Asp Gly Phe Val

1 5 10 15

Asp Lys Trp Asp Asp Leu Ile Asp

20

<210> 20

<211> 22

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<220>

<221> modified_base

<222> (15)

<223> i

<400> 20

gargaygart tygtngayat gt

22

<210> 21

<211> 21

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> ytgrttatytcraytcrtc

21

<210> 22

<211> 23

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<220>

<221> modified_base

<222> (15)

<223> 1

<400> 22

garcargayt tyggngcnga ycc

23

<210> 23

<211> 23

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<220>

<221> modified_base

<222> (12)

<223> 1

<400> 23

arraaraart cnggrtcngc rtc

23

<210> 24

<211> 27

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 24

34

cggaccatgg atacgactac tgagcag

27

<210> 25

<211> 34

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 25

gctcagatct gtcctcctcc cgatattcct tctc

34

<210> 26

<211> 31

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 26

gcgacgcgct acgacgatca a

31

<210> 27

<211> 34

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 27

gggaagatct ccctttgcgg aagtaaaaga tacc

34

<210> 28

<211> 30

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 28

gctgccatgg agaagagcta ccgcaccgag

30

<210> 29

<211> 34

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 29

gggaagatct tgccctggcg tggatgatgc ccca

34

<210> 30

<211> 30

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: synthetic DNA

<400> 30

catgccatgg ccaagagcgt ggacgatctt

30